

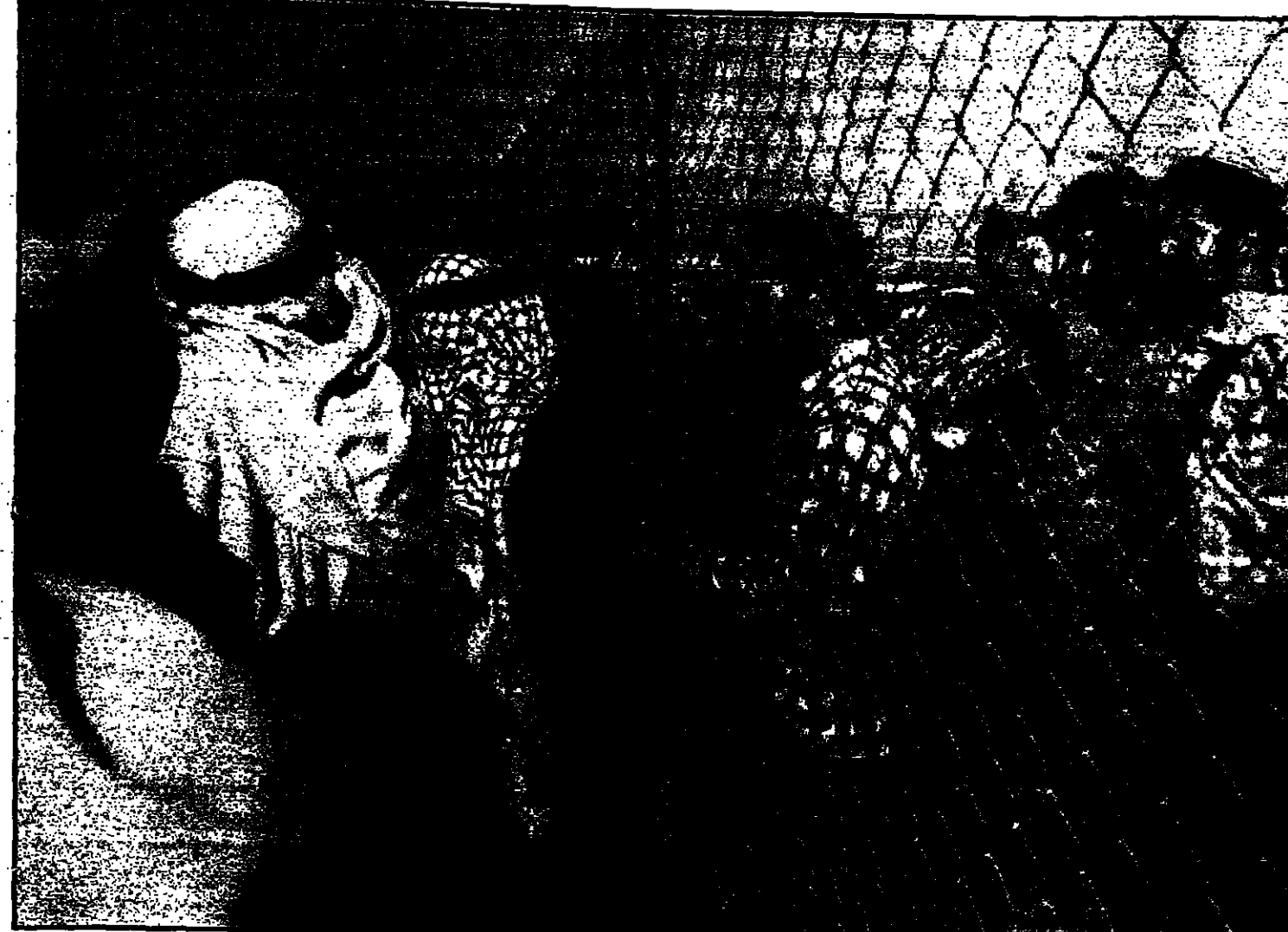
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VOLUME LXII, NUMBER 18860 FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1995 • SHVAT 5, 5755 • SHAABAN 4, 1415 NIS 5.30 (EILAT NIS 4.50)



Talmon residents argue with Palestinians at the settlement's boundary fence yesterday. Story, Page 2. (Reuters)

Mofaz: Conclusive evidence Palestinian policemen shot first

BOTH Israel and the Palestinians are continuing to insist that the other side shot first in Monday night's incident, in which IDF troops killed three Palestinian policemen.

OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz said yesterday the investigation shows conclusively that the policemen shot first and they kept on shooting until they were shot.

But the Palestinian Authority maintained its view that IDF soldiers fired first.

In addition, Mofaz said that, in any future similar incident, soldiers under fire will cross the lines and attack.

Palestinian Authority Economics Minister Nabil Shaath, however, told a press conference the next time Israeli troops unilaterally enter the autonomous area in hot pursuit, the PA would petition the UN Security Council to condemn Israel.

"I would like to clarify that there is no word giving Israel the right of hot pursuit in Palestinian territory. The withdrawal from Gaza was irreversible, and reentering will be considered aggression," he said.

The Foreign Ministry has said hot pursuit is permitted when Israelis are attacked and the attackers are in sight.

"Within the territory under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority... the Israeli authorities may carry out engagement steps in cases where an act or incident requires such action," Article VIII of the Cairo Agreement security protocol states.

Mofaz and Shaath did agree that the joint IDF-Palestinian investigation, which is to re-

concile two versions of the incident and reach conclusions, has not been completed.

But Shaath said that even if it proved that Palestinians shot first, the soldiers should have contacted the District Coordination Office and sent for a joint patrol. (Article VIII says that after taking measures to bring the incident to an end, the PA will be notified at the "earliest opportunity.")

According to a leader of the Preventive Security Service, opponents of the peace process probably started the shoot-out.

Shaath said he accepted Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's condolences in Cairo, but maintained it was "a premeditated crime."

Several of the policemen manning the Palestinian post have been replaced and the level of cooperation is encouraging, Mofaz said. He added that a telephone line now connects the IDF post and the Palestinian Police post at the Erez checkpoint, and officers will be deployed at every point of encounter.

"We ask that they do a better job at selecting their policemen, but we don't regard the Palestinian Police as an enemy," Mofaz said.

However, he criticized the Palestinian Police for recurrent shooting incidents.

"I'm not at all happy with their effectiveness in curbing terrorist activity and fighting Hamas. There is a pattern of shooting from the Palestinian Authority area into Israel from [people in] speeding cars, who approach IDF patrols and open fire. But in the last six

months, there has been an improvement in the level of cooperation," Mofaz said. He stressed joint patrols will continue despite mutual distrust.

Shaath said this week's meetings of the Israeli-Palestinian higher liaison committee were severely handicapped by the "real crisis" in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

He also said that, "I will not attend another meeting of the committee until Israel releases some more prisoners."

Many of the 5,000 Palestinians still in jail since before the Oslo Accords had signed a pledge not to engage in violence, he said.

Referring again to prisoners, Shaath said: "Leaders who gave orders to resist the Israeli occupation like myself, President [Yasser] Arafat and [Palestinian Police commander] Gen. [Nasr] Yusef are free, while the heroes who executed the orders are still in jail. Israelis who talk about Palestinian hands covered in blood are hypocritical, because Israeli soldiers received orders to kill and their hands are covered in blood."

Shaath was optimistic about talks with Israel, saying the election committee would meet in Cairo Wednesday and is close to agreement on most issues, but not full participation of Jerusalem residents.

"A kind of mechanism" on IDF deployment is to be discussed in the security committee headed by Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, he said, and another Arafat-Rabin meeting is expected in the next 10 days.

Lamia Lahoud contributed to this report.

ICL head Medina resigns

JOSE ROSENFELD and GALT LIPIK BECK

IN a surprise move, Israel Chemicals (ICL) chairman Victor Medina yesterday submitted a letter of resignation to the company's board of directors, claiming undue government interference in the company's management.

Medina made the announcement during a board meeting called to consider Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish's request to move the headquarters from Ramat Gan to Beer Sheva.

Prior to the meeting, Harish sent the directors a letter, saying that Medina's opposition to the move had antagonized Negev local officials, Knesset members and ministers, whose support is necessary for passing the Dead Sea Concession Law and the Business Licensing Law essential for ICL's operations.

Full story, Page 15

Surprise attack simulated before '73

ALTHOUGH Israel was surprised when Arab countries attacked in October 1973, the General Staff in fact had war-gamed such an attack in 1971, former air force commander Benny Peled said.

"In 1971, the General Staff played the largest war game to date. It was called Mahaluma (blow)," Peled, OC Air Force from 1973-1977, told The Jerusalem Post. "In it we simulated a surprise attack. It concluded that a war would last 30 days, that we would lose 8,000 soldiers, 20,000 wounded, and 10,000 civilian casualties. By the end of that war, we would have had armored divisions around Cairo, Damascus, and Amman. The General Staff thought that was victory. Every-one drank champagne afterward."

Full interview, Page 10

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Saddam: Arabs should rocket Israel

IRAQI President Saddam Hussein last night called on Arab countries to begin missile attacks on Israel, similar to Iraq's attacks during the Gulf War.

Speaking during a reception for the heads of the Iraqi military, Saddam reportedly said, "The Arab countries should be asking themselves, 'Who will fire the 40th missile against Israel?'"

Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles on Israel during the war.

Saddam's statements were broadcast on Iraqi Radio and reported by Israel Radio last night.

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PM: Labor must change to survive

Party distraught over 'poll-that-never-was'

SARAH HONIG



Rabin: Our problem is not with the Likud, but with us inside Labor. (Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

"A CHANGE is needed, first in the functioning of the party, and the Knesset faction, but also in the government, to assure that we fulfill our promises to the public in the realms of peace, security, and changing national priorities," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last night.

Speaking in Nazareth, Rabin was responding to a day of tension and fireworks in the Labor Party, following a report by Time magazine of a poll that Rabin insisted was never taken, which showed the Labor Party would be soundly defeated if national elections were held now.

The poll, ostensibly conducted by the Labor Party, showed that the Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu would defeat Rabin by a 10 percent margin and the Labor Party would plunge from its present 44 Knesset seats to 27.

The Likud, on the other hand, would win 47 seats, up from its current 32.

The next national elections are set for 1996.

"I take responsibility for everything," Rabin said on Israel Television. "I take responsibility for the success of the Labor Party that took over the government after 15 years of opposition, and I take responsibility for the faults of today."

Rabin denied it had conducted any opinion surveys recently; for a few hours the party even intimated it would sue Time for libel. Time stuck by its story, noting it originated from several Labor sources.

The Jerusalem Post was told by one Labor source there had been no such poll and I checked with

[party Secretary-General Nissim] Zivili and all those who ought to know and they all assure me that there was no poll such as the one Time reported.

"The information Time said it got did not come from Labor. This was a deliberate attempt by someone - I don't know who - to present a warped picture. Two days ago Hamas lied about kidnapping a soldier, and that, too, turned out to have been a lie," Rabin said.

Rabin conceded, however, that, "Support for Labor is on the decline. It would not be right to depict Labor and its Knesset faction as being in top working order."

"Our problem is not with the Likud, but with us inside Labor," he said. "The writing is on the wall."

But Foreign Minister Shimon Peres reacted as if there had been a poll, saying he gives "little credence to polls. When we were in opposition they predicted a 20 Knesset seat advantage for us. The problem is not the polls, but what we in government do for the next two years."

Zivili's version was that the last poll commissioned by Labor was taken five weeks ago and that it and other indicators "show a tiny move to the right in the political arena."

Zivili said the most recent Labor poll's results "were unlike those quoted by Time," but he did not disclose just what the poll showed.

Netanyahu called on Labor last night "not to dabble in petty questions of whether it was a poll that was or not, but to put it all to the ultimate ballot box test and do it now. The best and most accurate answer will come from early elections."

PA officials: K. Sefer demo was mistake

BILL HUTMAN

PALESTINIAN anti-settlement activists made a grave mistake in their first target for protest after Efrat, senior Palestinian officials revealed yesterday.

Land for new homes at the first settlement targeted, Kiryat Sefer in the Modi'in region, was not illegally confiscated from the adjoining village of Deir Khadis, as the activists charged, the officials said.

Rather, the 1,000 dunams (250 acres) were legally sold over a decade ago by Palestinian landowners, largely area residents, to the settlement's developers, they said.

Civil administration officials and Kiryat Sefer developers confirmed the land had been sold by Arab landowners in the early 1980s.

The developers said they have kept quiet about the land's status, even after this week's protest, because they feared that if the identity of the sellers became known, they would be in danger from other Palestinians.

"We only know what [Deir Khadis] residents tell us, and that is that the land was illegally confiscated," said Khader Shkirat, Palestinian Land and Water Es-

tablishment director.

Shkirat and Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, led the demonstration earlier this week.

"If Palestinian officials knew the land had not been confiscated, they should have informed us," Shkirat said.

The official, however, said the status of Kiryat Sefer's land is "common knowledge" among Palestinian anti-settlement activists.

Right, left clash in Efrat
Morag land belongs to moshav
Work halted at Talmon
Page 2

Deir Khadis residents lost a court case against the settlement several years ago, after it was proven the land was legally sold, he said.

Meanwhile, the Jerusalem-based Geographic Center has compiled data allegedly showing that, through a process of de facto expropriation, some 20,000 dunams in Judea and Samaria have been taken

over by Israel since the signing of the Oslo Accord.

Khalil Toufakji, a center researcher, charged the civil administration had changed the zoning of the land to national parks and mining areas, to keep it within Israel's control.

He said the center turned the data over to the Palestinian Authority.

Civil administration spokeswoman Elise Shazar confirmed the center's statistics, but strongly denied that rezoning was aimed at insuring Israel's control.

In the case of park land, "the rezoning does not change the ownership," Shazar said. As for the mining areas, in many cases it was Palestinian landowners who requested the change so they could quarry stone or mine minerals, she said.

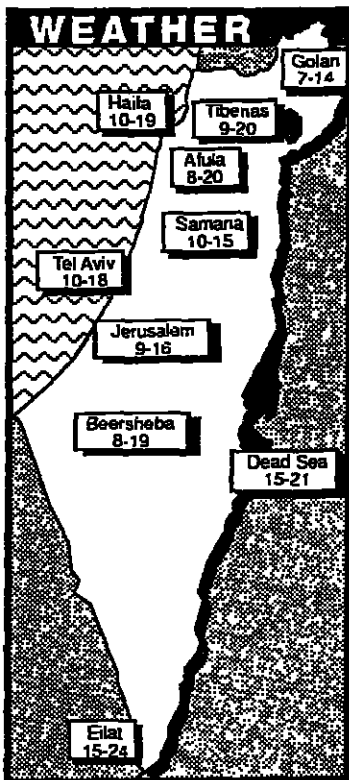
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ARRIVALS

For a core leadership meeting in advance of Bar-Ilan University's 50th Anniversary Global Board of Trustees session: Dr. and Mrs. Morris Green, Mrs. Beldy Lindenbaum, Mr. Charles Dimson, Mrs. Rena Costa, Mr. Conrad Morris, Mrs. Barbara Sullivan, Brig. Gen. (Res.) Yehuda Halevy and Mrs. Hedy Shulman.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Having reprised Ephraim Kishon's stories every Sunday for the past year, *The Jerusalem Post* gratefully acknowledges his contribution. In the future, Kishon stories will appear on an occasional basis.

CORRECTION

American Zionist Movement President Seymour Reich called on US Jews to push for US funding for the PLO, to not contribute directly to the PLO, as stated in yesterday's paper.

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 472558 won NIS 1,000,000.
The holder of ticket number 820130 won a Honda sports car.
Tickets numbered 198221, 554920, 532318, 512231, 369190, 566462, 667983, 595519, 759779, 838641, 721678, 190268, 059495, 434075, 065881, 440254, 565446, 595379, 217094, 370795, 310866, 415057, 516566, 814550, 589290 and 542945 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 69106, 77552, 70304, 58180, 48600, 71410, 33304, 16392, 48313, 02860, 53468, 93403, 32620, 09870, 65537, 53607, 40354, 06365 and 63112 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 925, 398, 092, and 813 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 10, 98, 40 and 33 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 93, 28, 92, 39, 09, 67 and 51 won NIS 10. Tickets ending in 4 won NIS 7.
In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, ten of hearts, seven of diamonds, and king of clubs.

Efrat residents, Meretz activists, clash at settlement

BILL HUTMAN and Itim

POLICE and soldiers were called in yesterday afternoon as Efrat residents and Meretz activists clashed at the entrance to the settlement.

Members of the two sides shoved each other and exchanged sharp words after residents prevented activists from entering the settlement.

One Efrat resident was detained and later released by police, witnesses said.

"It was hutzpa on the part of the Meretz people to come here and try to protest right in front of our homes," said Efrat resident Eve Harow. "We wouldn't let them in, because they came simply to provoke us."

"They [the settlers] tried to stop us from demonstrating at the entrance of the settlement. The army and the police tried to come between us and them, but they did not help," Meretz protester Ofer Shitrit told the Associated Press.

Over a hundred residents rushed to the settlement's entrance gate when word was received that a busload of Meretz protesters was on its way.

Residents carried signs declaring "No entrance to Hamas supporters" and "Collaborators with the Hamas," alleging Meretz activists protested together with Hamas activists against the expansion of Efrat.

Dozens of soldiers and policemen tried to keep the sides at a distance from each other. After over an hour, the Meretz protesters left without entering the settlement.

Meanwhile, the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee confirmed yesterday that documents presented by Gaza Palestinians claiming ownership of land near Moshav Morag in Gush Katif were forged, and that the land belongs to the moshav.

Farm work planned for the

land was delayed by a week, however, at the request of OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, to let tension in the area dissipate.

When moshav members went to the area in the morning to work, they were met by dozens of Palestinian protesters, who were being egged on by Palestinian policemen. Soldiers asked the Jews to leave the site, to avoid a confrontation.

Meanwhile, the civil administration issued an order forbidding ground work on some 1,700 dunams (425 acres) near the settlement of Talmon, in the Ramallah area.

Though the land in question was declared state land in 1989, residents of the Arab village of Jinia made several appeals against the appropriation that are still under review by the civil administration's appeals committee.

Jinia residents asked for the restraining order, because Talmon residents began clearing the disputed land four days ago, cutting down trees.

The appeal is to be decided on Sunday.

PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had assured him in Cairo that no land would be confiscated for settlements and no government money would be spent on them.

But, Shaath added, the Palestinians were equally upset at seeing land confiscated for roads and private funds being used to continue building on land that was expropriated and declared state land.

Peres, in an interview yesterday, said he still feels that some settlements in the territories will have to consider living under Arab rule.

Jon Immanuel and Ranan Lurie contributed to this report.

Ramallah strikes to protest killing of PFLP activists

JON IMMANUEL

A GENERAL strike took place in Ramallah yesterday, following the shooting of four activists from Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine by undercover soldiers in Beit Likiya on Wednesday night.

Ramallah is a stronghold of the PFLP, a PLO opposition faction led by Dr. George Habash.

Military sources identified two of the four killed in the operation by undercover troops as fugitives wanted for the past three years, Issa Aasi, 26, and Ali Masarja, 30, were wanted for killing Palestinians cooperating with Israel, although local sources said they were political activists.

The two others were identified by the PFLP in Damascus as Mohamed Khamis and Ashraf Kandous.

Meanwhile, shots were fired at a bus near Netzarim in the Gaza Strip last night. A leaflet signed by the PFLP taking responsibility was found nearby.

Hamas terrorist gets three life terms for kidnapping, killing two soldiers

THE Lod Military Court yesterday sentenced a Palestinian man to three consecutive life sentences for kidnapping and killing two soldiers last year.

Iman Abu Khalil, 22, from the Jerusalem neighborhood of Beit Hanina, was convicted of participating in the kidnap and murder of IDF soldiers Shahar Simani and Arye Frankenthal in separate incidents.

Khalil said the kidnappings were planned to win the release of Palestinian prisoners from all groups, including Sheikh Ahmed Yassin of Hamas.

He was also convicted of belonging to Hamas's Izzadin Kassam military wing, an army statement said.

Khalil said there had been no intention to kill the soldiers when they were kidnapped, but the soldiers were killed because of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's policies. "I committed a murder to protest Israeli policy, and I am not sorry," he said.

Simani was kidnapped last April and Frankenthal in July. According to the indictment, Khalil and members of the gang he led were also accused of trying to murder the guards outside the Old City apartment of MK Ariel Sharon in August.

Members of the gang decided to kidnap the soldiers in the South to make it seem as though a gang from the Gaza Strip was responsible. They wore kippot to make it seem as though they were observant Jews, so the hitchhiking soldiers would readily get into their car.

On April 20 they snatched Simani, who fought back; but they shot him and then stabbed him



Iman Abu Khalil is led into the Lod Military Court yesterday, where he was sentenced to three life terms for kidnapping and killing two soldiers and other crimes. (Aloa Ron/Israel Sun)

when he continued to resist. They took his rifle and left his body by the roadside.

On July 6 they picked up Frankenthal near Kiryat Malachi after again donning kippot. They demanded his weapon and, when he began yelling for help, shot and killed him.

They then decided to seek the prisoners' release in exchange for Frankenthal's body, which they

hid in an abandoned building. However, local residents who noticed tracks leading to the building summoned the authorities, ruining the plan.

The gang members then planned an attack on Sharon's house on August 12, but in shootouts near the Rockefeller Museum and the A-Ram junction, one was killed and two were critically wounded. Khalil, who helped

plan the attack, was arrested a short time later.

In sentencing Khalil, the judges said the gang members had acted "without compassion" in killing the soldiers and wounding three policemen. After the sentencing, members of Abu Khalil's family spit at and cursed soldiers in the courtroom, Army Radio said. (Itim)

'Lebanese pro-Arafat fighters to join Palestinian Police'

DAVID RUDGE

AN agreement has been reached between the Palestinian Authority and Israel to allow 1,500 pro-Arafat fighters to leave refugee camps in Lebanon to join the Palestinian Police in the territories, the Beirut daily *Al-Diyar* said yesterday.

The paper quotes senior Palestinian sources in Lebanon as saying that preparations are well advanced, and the first group of 900 fighters is due to leave from Sidon Port next month.

It said French ships would be used to transfer the men from Lebanon to Gaza, although some details have yet to be resolved. The paper said the PLO wants the men to disembark along the Gaza coast, but Israel is insisting on the right to inspect the weapons and vehicles they would be bringing with them.

Meanwhile, Lebanese newspapers carried extracts yesterday of a reported interview with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with the French-based Arab weekly *Al-*

Wattani al-Arabi.

According to the previews, Rabin is quoted as saying "significant progress" has been made in the top-level military talks with the Syrians.

Furthermore, he reportedly said that Hizbullah is likely to be out of the picture sooner, rather than later.

In the excerpts, Rabin maintains that UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, is no longer valid, because it contradicts the need for security arrangements in Lebanon.

He reportedly reiterates Israel's insistence that any peace accords must include the incorporation of the SLA into the Lebanese Army and that all security arrangements should be an integral part of a peace treaty.

The excerpts quote Rabin as saying that any security arrangements would have to be tested over a trial period.

Heavy security zone clashes after Amal, Hizbullah attacks on SLA, IDF positions

DAVID RUDGE

HEAVY artillery exchanges erupted in southern Lebanon yesterday, breaking a lull in fighting inside and north of the security zone.

There were no reports of casualties among IDF or South Lebanese Army soldiers. Reports from Lebanon, however, said a woman from Yatar, north of the zone, was wounded and four homes there were damaged by IDF and SLA artillery and tank fire.

The shooting broke out around 4:30 a.m. when Amal gunmen opened fire with mortars and machine guns at an SLA position near Rashaf in the western sector.

IDF and SLA gunners returned fire, blasting suspected positions of the gunmen north of the zone, especially around Yatar.

The reports from Lebanon said the IDF and SLA gunners fired dozens of artillery and tank rounds in response to the Amal attack. Some of the shells hit the village, wounding the woman, who was later taken to the hospital in Sidon for treatment.

UNIFIL sources said a position manned by Irish troops in the Rashaf area was hit and parts of the compound damaged by shrapnel, but there were no casualties.

Later in the morning, Hizbullah fired several mortar rounds and Katyusha rockets at three SLA positions in the eastern sector of the zone. There were no casualties.

The IDF and SLA returned heavy artillery, tank, and mortar fire and blasted suspected terrorist targets north of the zone. Reports from Lebanon said IAF helicopter gunships were also active in the area.

The fierce exchanges prevented evacuation of an officer from the Norwegian battalion from a position in the eastern sector after he complained of heart problems. He was later flown to the UNIFIL headquarters hospital in Nakoura and from there to Haifa's Rambam Hospital for further treatment.

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The complete program will appear in this newspaper on Friday, January 13, 1995.

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According to Israel Barzilai, head of the ministry's hazardous materials department, the ministry feared the cyanide might have caused severe pollution had it leaked out, and police were warned that, in a worst case scenario, it could turn into a poisonous cloud.

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The 'armed struggle' continues

THERE are probably some strictly local conditions at the Erez checkpoint which are conducive to trouble. The most obvious is that the Palestinian policemen serving in the area were trained in Libya. (They may, in fact, be Libyan, not Palestinian.) Their hate-filled anti-Israel indoctrination may make it impossible for them to consider Israelis anything but targets.

It is possible, too, that the logistic and inspection arrangements in the area make friction and mutual irritations inevitable. But even terminal optimists now admit that what is happening, not only at Erez but throughout the Gaza District, reflects a malaise in the "peace process" and a serious deterioration in the Israel-Palestinian relationship.

Daily shooting incidents, some of which are not reported to the public, are aimed at military positions, passing vehicles, workers in the field, and settlers' homes. The Palestinian policemen either participate in these incidents or give the shootings their tacit approval. To see these daily events as anything less than a concerted campaign against the Israeli presence in the district is to indulge in wishful thinking. And to suppose that such a campaign can be waged without the permission of the Palestinian Authority is to ignore glaringly obvious conditions on the ground.

The government seems to believe that the main reason for this deterioration is economic. Not only has there been a drastic lowering of the standard of living in Gaza since the PLO took over in May, the prospects of improvement in the near future are poor. Without hope for an immediate betterment, say government officials, it is hardly surprising that Gazans turn against the process and join the ranks of its enemies. The solution, they say, is to pour money into the area in the form of international grants, loans, and investments. As soon as the local population reaps the benefits of peace, they hope, shooting at Israelis will cease. This is why the government and, at its prompting, some American Jewish leaders, are urging Washington to give the PLO large grants, despite its failure to live up to the Oslo agreement.

But even if the unlikely happens and economic improvement in Gaza is attained, it will not deflect the Palestinians from their immediate goal: to get the Israelis out of the Gaza District. Convinced that neither the army nor the settlers will evacuate the area unless forced to do so, the Palestinians are reverting to what is euphemistically known as the "armed struggle" — the kind of terrorist campaign which they believe forced Israel to agree to a withdrawal in the first place.

Until recently, the PLO agreed with Hamas that the "armed struggle" would continue only in areas outside the control of the Palestinian Authority. Gaza and Jericho could serve as

training fields and organizational headquarters, but not as launching pads and havens. Now this seems to have changed. In past weeks, terrorists have been routinely using Gaza as a base from which they launch attacks and to which they return.

The reason for this change of tactics may have to do with the extraordinary success Israel has had in tracking down terrorists in Judea and Samaria. Over 1,000 Hamas organizers and gunmen have reportedly been arrested, and units of wanted terrorists have been engaged and killed. The access to Arab population centers the security services have in these areas obviously enables them to combat terrorism effectively.

But the Palestinians have discovered another way to wage war against the Israeli presence in the territories — one in which they are far more certain of international support. They are targeting the settlements. The government's cancellation of construction on Givat Hatamir near Eilat following demonstrations and threats by local Arabs, assisted by Peace Bloc and Peace Now supporters, has triggered a campaign against all Israeli construction in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

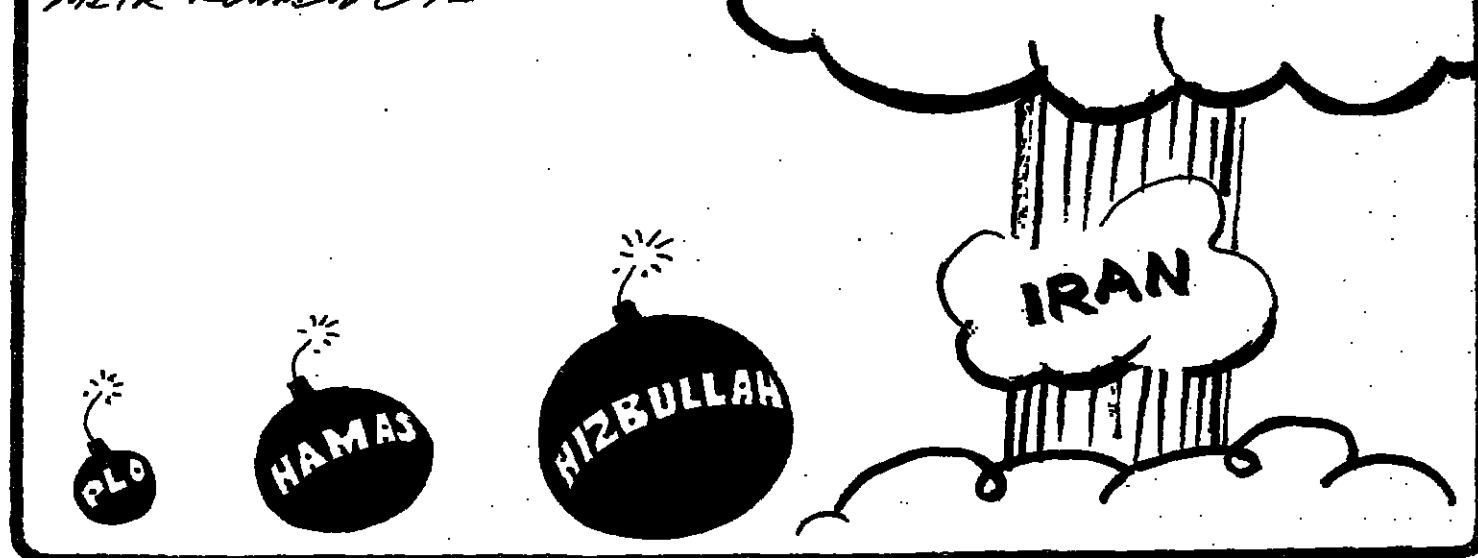
PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has reportedly issued orders that all Israeli activity in the territories, whether in building or agricultural work, should be challenged. As a result, demonstrations have flared up in several places. And the next such protests are certain to be staged against construction in Jerusalem and its suburbs.

In all these confrontations Israel is at a disadvantage. While the Palestinians, backed by world opinion, view the Oslo and Cairo agreements as leading inexorably to a Palestinian state on the 1949 armistice lines, with eastern Jerusalem as its capital, Israel has not decided on its own vision of the final status.

The reason is that the Labor Party is still sharply divided on this issue. While its doves, led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his deputy, Yossi Beilin, concur in principle with the Palestinian solution, others still hope to keep the Etzion Bloc, the Jordan Valley, and all of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty.

The trouble is that the absence of a defined goal makes the government seem indecisive, disunited, and aimless. Even those who still believe the Oslo agreement will work — and their number is diminishing every day — would like to know where the process is leading. That the government has provided neither a clear picture of its goal, nor of how it intends to reach it, has caused it to lose popular support. And it has convinced the Palestinians that, by intensifying the "armed struggle" and demonstrating against the settlements, they will force a weak, vacillating government to give them what they want.

MEIR RONEN '95



Two can play Syria's game

YOSSI OLMERT

INITIALLY, the main aim of Hizbullah's terrorist activity in southern Lebanon was to advance the notion of an Islamic republic in Lebanon. It also sought to expel the IDF and the main American Multinational Force, positioned in Lebanon following Israel's 1982 invasion, from Lebanese territory.

These objectives reflected the combined interests of Hizbullah and its external benefactors, Iran and Syria.

Twelve years later, Hizbullah is still paying lip service to the idea of an Islamic republic. But practically speaking, it has abandoned this as a viable political goal. Hizbullah participated in the 1992 Lebanese parliamentary elections, which were based on the vision of a pluralistic, multi-confessional Lebanese Republic.

The MNF has long gone from Lebanon, and the related problem of Western hostages has been resolved. What's left for Hizbullah is jihad against Israel. With no other major goal, this has become its one and only driving force, its raison d'être.

The struggle against Israel also continues to be an Iranian and Syrian interest. Of the two, Syria is the key power supporting Hizbullah, because of its proximity to Lebanon and its overwhelming political influence there.

Iran provides Hizbullah with

ideological guidance, financial support, and military hardware, and this is important. However, without Syrian cooperation, none of this could reach Hizbullah, and this is crucial to the terrorists.

Clearly, Syria is the force that makes Hizbullah's activities possible, and its support for the terrorists coincides with its continuing negotiations with Israel.

held Syria responsible for this terrorism, it has refrained from punishing it for its responsibility.

In sum, Israel has given Syria immunity, and Assad was quick to seize the opportunity to harass Israel without having to pay the price. This was true prior to the beginning of the current peace process, and it has escalated since then because of Israel's self-im-

Israel must make Assad uncomfortable about his position in Lebanon

This may seem an inherent contradiction, but it is fully in line with President Hafez Assad's strategy of negotiations based on a combination of diplomacy and military pressure. Syria cannot apply such pressure on the Golan Heights, due to their proximity to Damascus and the restrictions imposed by the Disengagement Agreement of 1974.

LEBANON IS a different story, and Assad is taking full advantage of this. Since the summer of 1982, successive Israeli governments have pursued a rather ambiguous policy toward Syrian complicity with Hizbullah terrorism. While Israel has constantly

posed limitations on its freedom of action in Lebanon.

The only exception was "Operation Accountability" in July 1993, which ended inconclusively. Israel voluntarily gave up its right to hit Hizbullah and Syria where it matters most to them — those regions in Lebanon where the head of the terrorist snake is based, such as Beirut and the Bekaa Valley, which are under full Syrian control.

Under these new circumstances, Israel is limited to acting only against the tail of the snake. Small wonder it has been so ineffective in deterring Hizbullah and Syria.

But it can be different. It has to

be, if Israel wants to reverse the tide of events in south Lebanon.

Today, most of Lebanon is peaceful, and the country is undergoing a rapid process of rehabilitation and reconstruction after years of bloody civil war. This corresponds with Syria's interest, which is to keep the country as peaceful as possible, under its hegemony.

Only southern Lebanon is still in turmoil — and this is an anomaly. Israel is not obliged to accept. If south Lebanon is in flames, other parts of the country should not celebrate.

Traditionally, it has been Israel's policy that if its side of a border is not quiet and peaceful, neither should the enemy's side be.

It is high time for Israel to apply this principle in Lebanon. No region or target in Lebanon should be exempt from Israeli action, taken with utmost care that innocent civilians are not harmed.

Doing this may not put an end to Hizbullah terrorism. But it will serve to motivate Assad to start reconsidering his position. Until now, he hasn't had the slightest incentive to do so. It is about time he was given one.

The writer, a former head of the Government Press Office, is an expert on Syria.

The judicial bogeyman

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

THE so-called constitutional revolution, supposedly inaugurated by the basic laws on human rights enacted by the late Knesset, has produced more backlash than frontlash. The action thus far has been primarily in the media, not in the courts.

If there has been a revolution, it is in the high profile of legal developments in areas which, in the past, drew only marginal public attention.

Truly fundamental changes in legal rules about homosexuality have previously taken place without any significant expression of injured sensibilities by the religious camp. There was no big noise in March 1956, for example, when then-attorney-general Haim Cohn confirmed in writing that prevailing policy was to ignore the law and not prosecute consenting adults for homosexual acts performed in private.

Again without any particular public notice, the law that made homosexual relations between consenting adults illegal was repealed by the Knesset in 1988. Even the 1992 law banning sexual preference as grounds for discrimination in employment wasn't big news.

But the application of that law in a recent High Court decision set off a constitutional crisis — at least in the media. True, the case of the equal employment rights of the homosexual airline steward had more intrinsic human interest than abstract changes in the law. However, the political impact of the decision was a product of its

context, not its content.

The same is true with regard to the reaction of the Chief Rabbinate on meat imports.

At issue is a High Court decision involving the application of accepted doctrine denying the rabbinate the right to set conditions unrelated to the dietary laws in granting kosher certification.

This deserves to be called the "belly-dancing doctrine." It was

tor of the population.

TODAY it is the court that is charged, understandably, with affronting sensibilities in its recent kosher meat decision.

An importer wants to import meat whose kosher status is unquestioned. The importer, like the public hall, is also involved in a nonhalachic business; the import of nonkosher meat — not an unknown combination in distribu-

Religious fears of a constitutional revolution are exaggerated

enunciated in a little-noticed case five years ago involving the refusal of the rabbinate to grant kosher licenses to public halls unless they banned belly-dancing. The argument of the rabbinate was that when certifying a private hall as kosher, it had the right to prohibit what it regarded as a lewd exhibition in violation of Halacha.

When the belly-dancing doctrine was enunciated by the High Court in 1990, it attracted little attention, despite its intrinsic human interest and doctrinal importance.

In the relaxed atmosphere of that era, Justice Gavriel Bach even permitted himself to urge the rabbinate to change its attitude to belly-dancing, in view of its acceptance by a significant sec-

tion and marketing. But in today's political climate, the unanimous decision of the Chief Rabbinate Council rejecting the intervention of the judicial system made front-page news. If this rabbinical decision means what it says, we would truly have a constitutional revolution on our hands. It would be a revolution against the rule of law.

The religious establishment should beware of this sort of confrontation. In the long run, the continuation of the present status of the Chief Rabbinate depends on the acquiescence of the largely nonobservant majority.

Why does the halachic determination of the Chief Rabbinate deserve the support of the organs of political authority? Even among the observant population,

there are many who do not accept it. In Jewish tradition, rabbinical authority depends on learning, not on office.

Judicial authority, in the final analysis, depends on public support. The court's new power of judicial review of Knesset legislation is likely to prove far less significant than is generally assumed. Judicial review broadens the resources at the disposal of the judiciary; it does not alter the nature of the judicial function.

Religious anxiety over recent court decisions and what they may portend for the future of the religious status quo does not derive primarily from the content of the decisions themselves. Rather, it comes from apprehension over a supposed impending constitutional revolution which these decisions presage.

This apprehension is groundless. As retired justice Menahem Elon, a leading academic authority on Jewish law, recently declared, there is no constitutional revolution in the offing. The rights guaranteed by the new basic laws are already recognized by Israeli law and enjoy judicial protection. The constitutional revolution, if there is one, has already occurred.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the recent decisions which have caused such severe reaction in religious quarters is that they would have been decided in exactly the same way if the new basic laws on human rights had never been enacted.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OUTRAGED

Sir, — I feel compelled to express the outrage, anger and fear I felt during my recent drive to Eilat in Gush Etzion on Friday, December 30.

I became stuck in a "traffic" jam near the entrance to the Arab village of El-Khader during a demonstration by Peace Now against the recent construction in Eilat. The fear of being stoned, killed and lynched by hordes of rampaging Arabs was real. One block smashed into my car and several rocks were flying in all directions.

While this was happening, the army and Border Police were seemingly in total disarray, having no discernible tactics other than trying to avoid the rocks. The situation was totally out of control and extremely dangerous. At the very least, cars should have been rerouted. This lack of concern for the safety of citizens made me very angry.

Even worse than this was my feelings of utmost outrage over the Peace Now and Women in Black demonstrators on the side with olive branches in their hands — passively encouraging and condoning the violence.

TONY PICK
Jerusalem.

PENNY WISE

Sir, — Would any friend of Israel disagree that the nation needs now all the foreign support and understanding it can get, especially from the American public and Congress? Then why is the Israeli government driving yet another nail into the coffin, shutting off *hasbara* by slashing even more time from English-language international shortwave broadcasts ("Overseas radio programs to be cut," December 26)? If there was ever an example of being penny-wise and pound-foolish, this is it.

GLENN RICHTER,
Coalition for Jewish Concerns—Ancha
Bronx, New York.

UNFAIR

Sir, — On Friday, December 30, settlers from Meholah in the Jordan Valley used tractors to destroy the site of a planned Palestinian-owned gas station near the settlement, as reported by both Israel TV and *Ma'ariv*. The former broadcast a videotape of the settlers in action. However, *The Jerusalem Post* of January 1 reported only that the settlers had "protested" the building of the gas station. As the *Post* itself reported, the Palestinian businessman who was building the gas station had received all the necessary permits from the Civil Administration of the territories. The settlers' actions were therefore obviously illegal and unwarranted.

Is the *Post* now in the business of covering up for the settlers?
MARTIN J. GORVINE
Tel Aviv.

No coverup intended. The *Post* regrets the omission, caused by an incomplete report. — Ed. J.P.

VICIOUS REACTION

Sir, — A small but vicious religious reaction to a recent suggestion in the Knesset that King David was a human being frighteningly resembles the reaction of the Ayatollahs to the innocuous writings of Salman Rushdie. Have our religious leaders profanely elevated King David to the status of a god, about whom it is blasphemous to insinuate human failings? Our religious leaders should have no fear in proclaiming that our Bible tells it as it was.

Fortunately, the Bible stands on its own truth and cannot be damaged by either misguided rabbis or open-minded commentators. The "only" damage caused by this blinkered minority of religious leaders is that they impair people's ability to interpret what The Book is really saying.

Peres's demeaning apology furthers this impairment.
CEDRIC LEVY
Massagno, Switzerland.

SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

Sir, — The utter despondency which the majority of Jews in Israel and abroad seem to feel about the disastrous course of the government's "peace" process was dramatically demonstrated in December's extraordinarily successful international conference of the Association of Professors for a Strong Israel. It was remarkable that almost all participants were secular Jews, marking an end to the government's deceptive policy of calling its critics "religious fanatics."

Israel's military, academic and political elite gathered for two days before a standing-room-only audience of over 300 participants and delivered substantial lectures on a variety of selected urgent issues, such as Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem; education; "peace" and the economy; and the Golan.

An amazing assembly of top-ranking officers participated, with unusual enthusiasm. General Yitzhak Mordechai, fresh out of service in the Northern Command, gave a strong review of the security problems on the South Lebanese border and on the Golan. "Israel must always be in a position of looking down on the Syrians from the Golan, never the other way around," was his urgent warning. General Avigdor Kahalani, the staunch defender of the Golan, expressed his total opposition to any plan of giving up the Golan. Other generals spoke in similar terms.

A sensational feature at the conference was the presence of high-ranking leaders of the South Lebanese Christians and the Maronite community in this country who spoke of their reliance on a strong Israel for their own survival.

DR. MANFRED R. LEHMANN
Jerusalem (Miami Beach).

POSTSCRIPTS

GOOD THING Tommy Buckley lost his lawsuit against the United States of America. Had he won, the US would be bankrupt.

Buckley has been trying for three years to cash a \$278 billion — yes, billion — "US Treasury note," which the government calls a clumsy phony.

Buckley, an Amarillo entrepreneur, got hundreds of supporters to pressure the government to honor his claim. He published a newsletter about "Treasury Gate" and opened up special phone lines to encourage

followers, who flooded news media with letters.

Buckley said it all started when an Indonesian businessman asked him to redeem 16 certificates that obligated the US to pay \$166 million.

The note involved in the lawsuit was dated 1955. The \$278 billion represents "an amount in excess of the federal debt for that year," said the judge, who dismissed the lawsuit.

Buckley said the Indonesian promised him a 3 percent fee —

\$8.3 billion — for cashing the certificate.

Buckley's certificate appeared to be signed by Katherine Ortega over the line of "Treasurer of the United States" and James A. Baker III, above "Secretary of the Treasury," and was dated 1955. Ortega and Baker did not get those posts until the 1980s.

A senior Secret Service document examiner signed an affidavit that the certificate was on paper not used by the government, that the design doesn't match the government's and that it was produced "by a combination of poor

quality offset printing, stamp pads and press-on or rub-on letters and numbers."

In 1991, Buckley tried to redeem one certificate — issued to "Mr. Saddam Hussein" — for \$33 billion at the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas. He was arrested. The Secret Service confiscated 14 documents at the time, many with names of payees similarly misspelled: "Mr. Idi Amin," "Mr. Muammar Kadafi," "Mr. Antonio Manuel Nurea."

Who knows, maybe if Buckley had learned to spell he'd be a billionaire by now.

Jan 11 1995

One of a kind

SHMUEL KATZ

It is to be hoped that the symposium to be held in Jerusalem next week in memory of Sen. Henry Jackson will engender some tangible proposal for perpetuation of that memory in the Jewish consciousness. Jackson's concern for the welfare of our people, and his unremitting vigilance over the security of its harassed land of Israel fused harmoniously with his deep-seated conviction that a strong and proud Israel was an essential component of American global strategy.

A series of episodes, bunched together at the beginning of the 1970s, provide some reflection of that relationship. In 1968, about a year after their defeat in the Six Day War, the Egyptians, with the support of the Soviet Union, launched the War of Attrition across the Suez Canal. In 1970, when his military situation was deteriorating, President Gamal Abdel Nasser agreed to a cease-fire, urged on him by Washington with Soviet acquiescence. Israel accepted, on condition that the agreement would in-

Jewry was in full swing.

A tremendous campaign of pressure was launched by the administration. It had no effect on Jackson himself, and so the State Department's main force was turned on the Jewish community. The president himself entered the fray. He was reported as telling the Jewish community that he knew better than Jackson what was good for the Soviet Jews. The Jews and their friends remained adamant.

Suddenly, however, Henry Kissinger, newly appointed secretary of state, perceived a crack in Jackson's campaign. Israel's fortunes in the Yom Kippur War were at their lowest ebb and he, Kissinger, would use Israel's distress to break the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

Israel was in urgent need of replacements for its depleted arsenal, and its requests to Washington for arms were meeting no response. The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations was alerted and, believing that secretary of defense James Schlesinger was responsible for the delay, a delegation went to Kissinger to ask him to intervene to get the arms moving to Israel. He agreed to do so, but at a price.

What he "asked" was simple: that they should go to Jackson and ask him, in the name of the US Jewish community, to withdraw the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

What transpired at that tense meeting with Jackson was made known to me several days later. When Jackson heard what the three-man delegation wanted, he had "hit the ceiling."

"You are apparently prepared," he said, "to abandon your brothers in the Soviet Union. That's up to you. I am not prepared to do so. Apart from which, my activity is not confined to the Jews alone; I am working for free emigration for all."

Thus ended the administration's campaign. But not entirely: the arms were still not dispatched. Now another great personality entered the arena: Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, the head of the US Navy. Here, from an entirely different angle is his story, as told in his memoirs:

"I was a strong proponent of resupplying Israel rapidly and I was disturbed at the mysterious delay. I became convinced that, in the absence of US resupply, Israel was going to lose the war. At that point I did something I would not have done if I had been sure that [President] Richard Nixon, and not unelected, unaccountable Henry Kissinger, was making national policy about the war. I told Scoop Jackson that I was quite sure that it was the White House, not the Pentagon, that was delaying the resupply of Israel. I told him that I believed Israel was going to lose if the US did not get equipment aloft at once. I don't know just what Scoop did with my information..."

What "Scoop" did I was privileged to learn from him on a later visit to the US. "I went to Nixon that very day together with a colleague - and raised hell. I told him that his own orders for supplying Israel were not being carried out, and every day's delay could be disastrous. Nixon hadn't known what was going on." (He was engrossed in the Watergate crisis.)

It was then that Schlesinger was given the order to dispatch the arms to Israel.

It must be added that Jackson never had a "need" for the Jewish vote. The Jewish community in his home state, Washington, is comparatively small - and Jackson won all his elections by overwhelming majorities.

The whole House of Israel should make sure that his memory is appropriately honored.

The writer has published several books on Zionist and Jewish history.

Henry Jackson's memory deserves to be honored

clude a weapons standstill. It was particularly concerned at the acquisition by Egypt of a new Soviet missile (SAM-6), to which Israel had no reply.

Twelve hours after signature of the agreement (August 7, 1970), Egypt (with Soviet support) violated it: the missiles were brought down to the canal. Israel protested to Washington. When reports of the violation were confirmed by US intelligence, Jackson, realizing at once the severe threat to Israel, addressed a strongly worded demand to the president's adviser on national security, to insist on the immediate withdrawal of the illegally emplaced missiles.

He was not heeded: Washington did not want to tangle with the Soviets; and Jerusalem was "persuaded" to keep silent.

Jackson did not rest, and later told the Senate Armed Services Committee: "The net effect [of the violation] is to impact the effectiveness of the Israeli Air Force... If the hostilities resume, the IAF will pay a heavy price in lives and aircraft in attempting to destroy the SAM defense system."

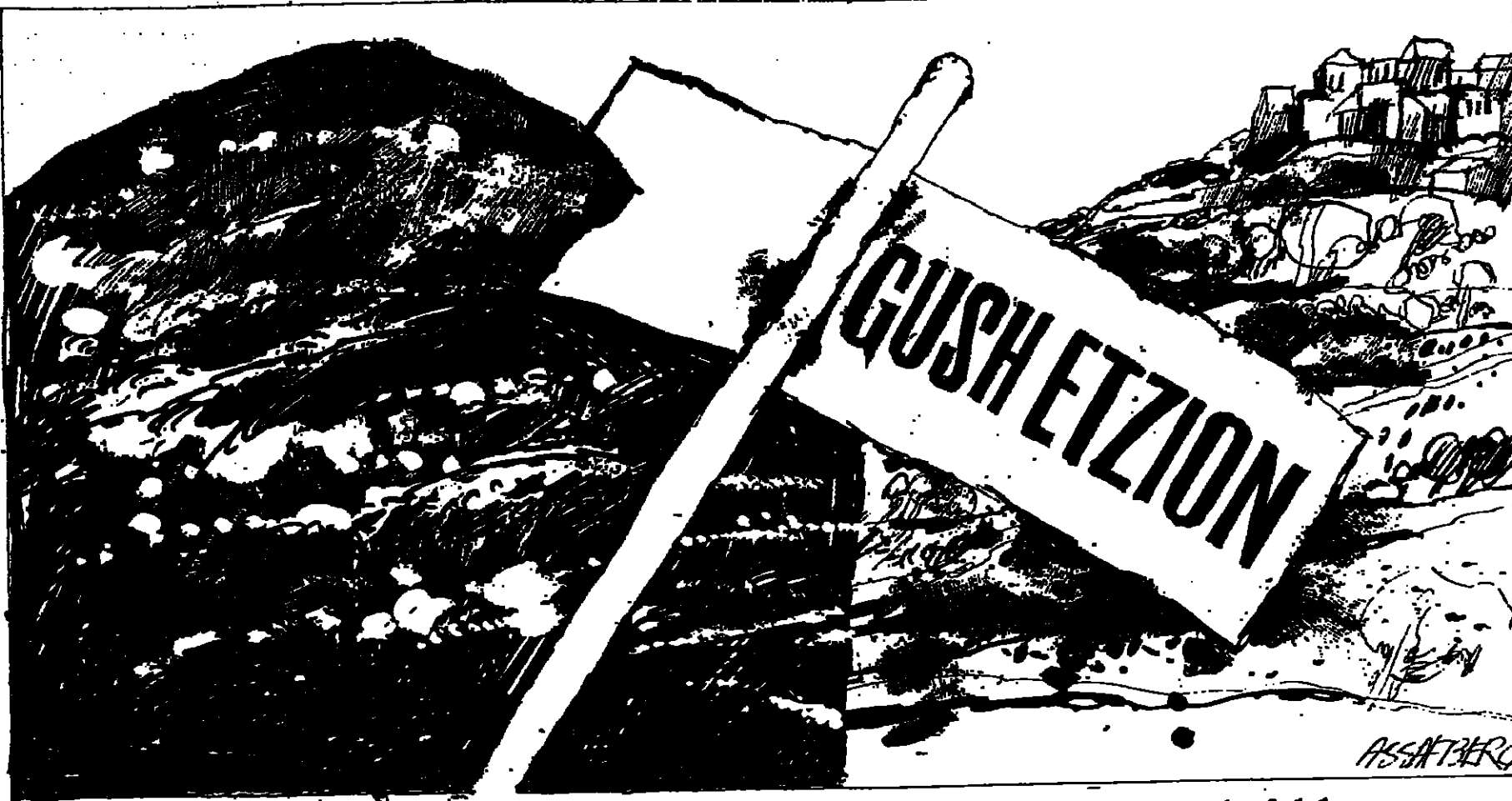
Three years later (October 14, 1973), in an impassioned speech in Los Angeles while the Yom Kippur War was raging, Jackson recalled those unheeded warnings which now, day after day, were being vindicated. The SAM missiles were taking a terrible toll of Israeli pilots.

Only days after that speech, Jackson found himself called upon once more to deal with a grim violation of trust. Here both Israel and Soviet Jewry were involved.

HE IS indeed perhaps best remembered for his prolonged and unrelenting struggle for the opening of the gates of the Soviet Union to emigration. This struggle he took to the floor of the Senate, fathering the famous Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

The US administration, following an agreement in 1972 with Moscow, was sponsoring a bill in Congress for preferential trade treatment for, among others, the Soviet Union. The Jackson-Vanik Amendment would deny that treatment to the Soviets unless and until they opened their gates to emigration.

The distress of the administration, which had set its heart on this major act of appeasement, was considerable, especially when it became apparent that the amendment was likely to be accepted by Congress, that it was clearly favored by most citizens, and was being unanimously welcomed by the Jewish community - whose own campaign for Soviet



Stark realities against a barren hilltop

OUR decision a year ago to buy a home in Efrat was not made with either complacency or naivete. But it was made in the belief that the Etzion Bloc would remain forever under the government of the State of Israel. That belief has now been undermined and the government's intentions placed in stark perspective.

Even in the minds of those far removed, both geographically and otherwise, from the settlement movement, the Etzion Bloc seemed a rare element of the so-called national consensus.

While putting less than complete faith in the promises of the government that, as part of Greater Jerusalem, Efrat would not be placed under the rule of any future Palestinian self-government, we believed that the will of the people and the rule of law would prevail - and that Israeli control of the Etzion Bloc would continue.

Since our decision to buy a home in Efrat, and in the less than four months we have lived there, I have only rarely encountered the negative reaction experienced by residents of many Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria. People's reaction to our choice of where to live seemed much the same as that reserved for any suburb of Jerusalem that just happened to lie beyond the Green Line.

"You're not really settlers," I've been told more than once. "After all, everyone knows the history of the Etzion Bloc."

Even friends who stand somewhat to the left seemed to apply what now seems an artificial distinction, pointing to the planned expansion of the city and to the massive investment in the road linking the bloc with Jerusalem.

Many leaders and residents of

Efrat have felt proud of our relatively serene relations with our Arab neighbors. Their grapevines and olives are a tremendous obstacle to our natural growth.

BEN DANSKER

Efrat have felt proud of our relatively serene relations with our Arab neighbors. Their grapevines and olives are a tremendous obstacle to our natural growth.

My assumptions about Efrat and Gush Etzion have turned out to be illusions. I feel angry and betrayed

yet they remain in place, tended by their owners.

Last week, visiting my father in Florida, I read the stark headlines in the local paper which told me that many of my assumptions were, in fact, illusions. Returning

to Efrat to find the road in front of my house blocked by tractors and earthmovers leaving Givat Tamar enhanced my growing feeling of betrayal by a government to which promises, and even court decisions, are meaningless.

I am angry that I was naive enough to believe the government's promises for even a minute. I feel taken advantage of by those who wish to make political statements at the expense of human beings.

While the struggle for the Land of Israel should not be just a struggle for homes and gardens and "quality of life," we do fear that, at best, Efrat's growth will stop forever, and that our home will remain at the very northern edge of the town. At worst, as I heard one resident say, "Camelot may soon come to an end." I hope he was exaggerating.

Even if the suggested compromise is implemented, the cabinet decision has blown the cover off a government which has lost all sense of proportion. It has lost the ability to establish or hold onto red lines, and is ready to abandon even the most legitimate and unassailable claims which we, as Jews, can make in the Land of Israel.

If we have no right to a barren hillside in the Etzion Bloc, to land owned by Jews for generations, land left desolate during the period of our exile, then we have no claim to any other place between the river and the sea.

This struggle is not for our homes, however painful losing them may be. It is for justice, history, and security for every Jew in Israel.

The writer is a business planner.

Agranat report's crucial, unheeded lesson

THE declassification of the bulk of the Agranat Commission report provided a painful reminder of the greatest trauma ever to have hit Israel.

The investigation into the initial disastrous defeats of the Yom Kippur War led to the forced resignation of then chief of staff David Elazar, OC Intelligence Eli Zeira, and OC Southern Command Shmuel Gonen, and eventually to the resignations of prime minister Golda Meir and defense minister Moshe Dayan.

Most of the criticism was leveled at the Intelligence Corps, which was mesmerized by the belief that Egypt and Syria could not go to war, despite mounting signs to the contrary.

Could such a traumatic situation recur? The purpose of the Agranat report was to recommend changes which would reduce the chances to a minimum.

As a result, the post-Yom Kippur War standing army was more than trebled in size, and Intelligence Branch procedures were revamped to invite and institutionalize in-house second opinions on the interpretation of raw data.

But there is cause for trepidation because of what hasn't been changed at the apex of the security pyramid.

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Much has been made of the Intelligence Branch's fixation with its "concept." According to the Agranat report, Dayan didn't share that fixation. He kept exhorting his army commanders to be prepared for an Arab attack.

So what happened? Despite his public image as a totally self-confident and hard-nosed driver for power, Dayan

Rabin mustn't make fateful decisions alone. A national security council would act as a check

lacked the courage to fight to the end for his deeply held convictions.

Meir, who had no military background, was totally dependent on Dayan. The cabinet, which formally shared collective responsibility for the country's security, was hopeless; the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee even more so. Does that sound familiar?

OUR TOP political leaders are

YOSEF GOELL

again in thrall to a "concept." This time, it's that all our Arab enemies, each for its own reasons, have opted for peace, in exchange for painful, but not impossible, concessions.

The men and women who believed in the 1973 "concept" were neither stupid nor evil. The data existed to support it - but also to negate it. This is true of most security and political situations.

Similarly, one can argue that the Palestinian, Jordanian, and Syrian people and their leaders have really opted for peace, and that it is safe to contemplate the concessions they are demanding in return. And again, there are persuasive arguments against this.

The Agranat report has a lesson we have not implemented: that it is too dangerous to leave fatal choices between opposing arguments to one or two leaders, no matter how wise, charismatic, or electable.

All the crucial decisions on the present peace process have been made by Prime Minister Rabin alone. As in 1973, both

the cabinet and the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee have proven hopeless.

What makes the situation even more dangerous is Rabin's record as a bad guesser. He was among those who were wrong on the eve of the Yom Kippur War; he was wrong again in the initial stages of the war in Lebanon; and he misread the first stages of the intifada.

The Agranat Commission recommended the establishment of a national security council made up of the very best minds. It would analyze complex and dangerous situations and serve as an additional check on our leaders.

Rabin has done more than anyone to prevent such a body being set up. Yet it is more crucial today than ever.

The writer comments on public affairs.

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Russia regroups, Grozny fighting continues

RUSSIAN troops, regrouping after a stalled New Year advance, yesterday waged fierce battles in Grozny with Chechen separatists a day after President Boris Yeltsin ordered a halt to bombings of the rebel capital.

In Bonn, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl welcomed the order to stop the bombings and said Yeltsin had to find a way to end the bloodshed in Chechnya. He said he had spoken to him at length before the order to stop bombing Grozny was issued.

There was no indication in Moscow whether Russian warplanes were in action in the Caucasus mountains. However, fighter jets and helicopters again buzzed Chechnya, and intensive fighting was heard near villages

west of Grozny on the sixth day of Yeltsin's bungled offensive to quash the republic's independence drive.

The president's influential Security Council will meet today to discuss the fighting, Yeltsin's office said.

The most vocal opponent of Russia's Chechnya operation, former Yeltsin ally Sergei Kovalev, said after returning from Grozny that the government was telling lies about the fighting — worse than those of Nazi propaganda chief Josef Goebbels.

"As regards the lies, we have surpassed the Communists and even Goebbels," he told journalists after returning from an extended stay in Grozny. "There is not a single word of truth in the

News agencies
GROZNY

official statements rubber-stamped by the government."

A senior Russian official claimed Grozny could be in Russian hands without a major battle by late yesterday. But Russian forces continued to flow toward the region, and street fighting seemed certain to flare again.

In Moscow, the press service of the Russian government said heavy fighting had taken place around the railway station in Grozny. The government said Russian troops had repulsed rebel attacks and killed about 100 Chechen fighters.

There was no word on Russian losses, and throughout the war Moscow has exaggerated its claims of killing the rebels.

Yeltsin was under increasing political pressure. Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov called for early presidential elections. Lawmakers gathered enough signatures to ask speaker Ivan Rybkin to call an emergency session of the legislature.

On Wednesday, Yeltsin's press service announced the halt in bombing under intense criticism from foreign governments and after apparently random bombings killed at least 100 civilian villagers.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of civilians and fighters have been killed or wounded in the 3-week

old invasion. The Red Cross estimates 350,000 people have been left homeless.

Officials reached in Grozny said the city was relatively quiet overnight and a week of constant bombing and shelling had mostly stopped, said Asmet Nalgiev, a press officer in the neighboring republic of Ingushetia.

A lone Russian fighter jet made one bombing raid shortly after midnight and another in the morning, far less than before, said Timur Tsuruyev, a Chechen fighter at the rebel headquarters on the southern edge of Grozny.

As street skirmishes and some tank fire were heard yesterday, fog hung over all of Chechnya, limiting visibility and making accurate bombing difficult.

Top GOP men meet Clinton, other Democrats

Gingrich's mom: Hillary's a bitch

WASHINGTON (AP) — Flanked by new Republican Congress leaders, President Clinton pledged yesterday they would "work together to make things happen."

A day after the Republicans' triumphant takeover of the US Congress, Republican and Democratic leaders met with Clinton at the White House to discuss the legislative agenda.

With their new status, House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole were seated next to Clinton at the table in the Cabinet Room.

Clinton laughed off an interview in which Gingrich's mom said her son thinks Hillary Rodham Clinton is "a bitch."

Kathleen Gingrich, in an interview with CBS, offered the remark after an awkward moment. "Why don't you just whisper it to me, just between you and me," Clinton said.

During his meeting with the new leaders, Clinton roared with laughter when a reporter asked him, "between you and me, is it going to be compromise or combat?"

"My answer to that is, Mr. Gingrich will whisper into your right ear and I will whisper into your left ear," he said.

Then, Clinton put a hand on Gingrich's arm and added, "God knows what she could've gotten my mother to say."

The president said he hoped they could work together on lobbying and campaign finance reforms, overhauling the welfare system, improving health care, congressional reforms and the line-item veto.

Referring to past political battles, Clinton said, "We all know that we're expert in stopping things. What we want to do is prove now we can work together to make things happen. And I'm encouraged by what I've heard and seen."

Dole has promised spending slashes, lower taxes and an end to laws that impose environmental and other costly requirements on states and local governments.

without the money to pay for them.

"Reining in our government will be my mandate, and I hope it will be the purpose and principal accomplishment of the 104th Congress," Dole said.

Clinton told the lawmakers "there's a consensus in this country that we shouldn't do anything that would increase the deficit, hurt the middle class, hurt poor people who are trying to work their way into the middle class or do anything that would undermine our economic recovery."

Bosnia truce hits snags, UN tries to sort out details

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — Bosnia's New Year cease-fire hit snags yesterday as the United Nations attempted to sort out key details of the pact in an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust between the rival Serb and Muslim sides.

Diplomats from the international contact group on Bosnia — the US, Russia, Germany, France and Britain — were meet-

ing in Bonn to restart talks on a negotiated settlement to the 33-month war.

The contact-group talks would be based on a peace plan drawn up last July, dividing Bosnia into two almost equal parts and accepted by all parties to the conflict except for the Bosnian Serbs.

The United Nations reported that the level of fighting in Bosnia

had subsided, although this was probably as much due to heavy snow as to the four-month "cessation of hostilities" agreement signed on December 31.

A meeting between representatives of the Bosnian government and rebel Serb forces at Sarajevo airport ran on for seven hours without agreement being reached on any of the technical issues it was intended to resolve.

UN spokesman Alexander Ivankov said the two sides could not agree on an eight-point document presented by UN com-

mander Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose. Disputes focused on methods of verifying withdrawal and disengagement of forces.

"They could not find common language on verification procedures. But both parties reaffirmed their commitment to keep all agreements mentioned in the cessation of hostilities," Ivankov said. "It's understandable that there is deep-rooted mistrust among the parties and it will take time for this distrust to start eroding."

"UNPROFOR (the UN Pro-

tection Force) will continue negotiating with the parties to try to finalize the document dealing with the cessation of hostilities."

The meeting would reconvene at Sarajevo airport at noon today.

Major Herve Gourmelon, a UN military spokesman, reported general calm around the country with only nine recorded ceasefire violations, down from 20-25 in each of the past few days. Five of the latest violations were by the Bosnian Serbs, the others by the Muslim-led Bosnian government army.

Ex-Malawi dictator Banda arrested, will be charged with murder of politicians

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP) — Police put ousted dictator Kamuzu Banda under house arrest yesterday and the government announced that he and a top aide will be charged with the murder of four politicians in 1983.

The government decided Banda, in his 90s and ailing from brain surgery, was too frail to be moved to jail, Defense Minister Kassim Chilumphi told reporters. Banda's former minister of state in charge of police, John Tembo, was put into the central prison.

Banda, a medical doctor by training, ran Malawi for 30 years until losing the country's first multi-party election last year. His lavish living and quirky, iron-fisted rule impoverished his southern African nation.

Banda and Tembo, ex-minister of state in charge of police, could be tried for murder within six weeks if investigations are completed by then, Chilumphi said.

The arrests came after a ruling Wednesday by a commission of inquiry that Banda's government ordered the politicians murdered on May 18, 1983. They were beaten to death with clubs and hammers and left in a car pushed over a ravine to look like an accident, the commission said.

"The commission has estab-

lished that the four did not die in a road accident as reported by the previous government," Chilumphi said.

Former police Inspector-General MacWilliams Lunguzi was also under arrest for allegedly destroying documents relating to the case and ordering the destruction of the car. At least two other senior police officers were also arrested late Wednesday.

Chilumphi said those arrested "will be accorded all their human rights." Banda can keep his personal physician and a longtime companion, Cecilia Kadzimir, formerly known as the nation's "official hostess," at his side.

Banda's arrest and the looming charges highlight his fall from grace.

He has rarely been seen in public since elections last May brought President Bakili Muzuli's United Democratic Front Party to power.

The commission, headed by a judge, ruled that ministers Dick Matanga, Aaron Gadama, Twaibu Sangala and lawmaker David Chiwanga were beaten to death. It is widely believed they were killed after they refused to carry out Banda's orders from a cabinet meeting whose agenda has never been disclosed.

GOP takes aim at Clinton cat

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Even Socks, President Bill Clinton's family cat, is not safe from the budget-cutting axe of the new Republican-controlled US Congress.

On the opening day of the new 104th Congress, Republican Representative Dan Burton of Indiana took aim at the cat's family name, answering operation at the White House.

"This is the same type of waste the American public wants to get rid of," the conservative said in a statement. "I mean spending their tax dollars on a fan club for the president's cat. The people have spoken, but the president doesn't seem to have listened."

Due to a technical error, the crossword which should have run today appeared in yesterday's paper. To keep the correct sequence of puzzles and solutions, we are again running that crossword today on Page 13. Below is the puzzle which should have appeared yesterday.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 5 Play goddess to stupidity (6)
- 8 Oddly clan very unheroic in manner (8)
- 9 Judge brings about disappearance of island (7)
- 10 Bones of St. Clare Lichfield may reveal (5)
- 11 Get a move on BR rolling stock? (9)
- 13 Times forbidden we hear to aid the injured (8)
- 14 Sword like of wit? (6)
- 17 Possible to achieve containment (3)
- 19 Strange duck Donald Duck! (3)
- 20 One longing to embrace the north in Middlesex? (6)
- 23 Indian battle-cry? (8)
- 26 Bridge isolation unattached by weight (9)
- 28 Fittingly indeed holds exercise with novice (5)

- 29 Bird with turn addressing house god in name only (7)
- 30 Re-write Pinter and Common Market loses carbon in forest (4,4)
- 31 Completed rendezvous in north after Church building agent (6)

DOWN

- 1 Creepy-crawly with blackleg gripping artist? (6)
- 2 Chivalrous man of fashion (7)
- 3 About cane perch, maybe (9)
- 4 Request soundly urgent requests (6)
- 5 Not bright draw (8)
- 6 Mother in Brazil for Italian chap (5)
- 7 One out to find singer with rebuilt ears (8)

- 12 Little else for degrees (3)
- 15 Supports being argumentative with Devil (8)
- 16 Make the smallest possible haven for Mickey Mouse we hear! (8)
- 18 Thing made from tear-jerker happened (8)
- 21 I'm Latin (3)
- 23 Bird pecked bird (7)
- 24 Bound to involve in late redevelopment (6)
- 25 O (6)
- 27 OO (5)

SOLUTIONS

ENTRANCE SKURTS
X R R O I E C
C H I N I N G S T R A T H
I C U T I S G S
T A K E S T O C K U D O U S
E S U U W N O
C H A R A T A B U R
E C A K O S
O R O V A S
T O N I C M I N N E S O T A
E O U M U L A R
R U N O F F S L U M B E R
I R F E I E O
S O V E R S T A N D A R D

Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 White, 4 Wheel, 9 Numbers, 10 Wheel, 11 Box, 12 Inhabit, 13 The, 14 Bath, 15 Road, 16 Kin, 20 Phrase, 21 Ice, 24 Sassy, 25 Posters, 26 Tea cup, 27 Under.
DOWN: 1 Winter, 2 Liner, 3 Even, 5 Hawthorn, 6 Eatable, 7 Spots, 8 Lyrical, 13 Thankyou, 15 Amnesia, 17 Effect, 18 Keeps, 19 Lenses, 23 Speed, 25 Beam.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Don't sit (5)
- 4 Kent port (5)
- 10 Renaissance (7)
- 11 Flower (5)
- 12 Cog edges (5)
- 13 Interval (7)
- 15 Spots (4)
- 17 Instrument (5)
- 19 Small sailing vessel (5)
- 22 Duty list (4)
- 25 Less noisy (7)
- 27 Furze (5)
- 29 Bury (5)
- 30 Shorten (7)
- 31 Viper (5)
- 32 Power support (5)

DOWN

- 2 Piece of furniture (5)
- 3 Whale (7)
- 5 Young bird (5)
- 6 Increase (7)
- 7 Honesty (5)
- 8 22 yards (5)
- 9 Rascal (5)
- 14 Following (4)
- 16 Centre (4)
- 18 Made homeless (7)
- 20 Keenly (7)
- 21 Firework (5)
- 23 Information medium (5)
- 24 Nonconformist (5)
- 26 Snooty (5)
- 28 Send message (5)

The Management and Staff of The Jerusalem Post
extend deepest condolences to their colleague
Benzi Miller
on the passing of his
FATHER

To Benzi Miller
We mourn with you the passing of your
FATHER
Your friends and colleagues at the
Tel Aviv office of The Jerusalem Post.

We mourn the passing of
Prof. NAOMI AMIR
who devoted her life to the treatment of
handicapped children.
Va'ad and residents of
Shikun Nayot

We extend heartfelt condolences to
Charlotte Dachs, Emunah of America
Honorary National President and Financial Secretary
on the passing of her beloved husband
HAROLD
May she and her family be comforted among the
mourners of Zion
Emunah of Israel Emunah of America
World Emunah

IN MEMORIAM
ARTHUR SPIEGEL
Executive Director/Executive Vice President
JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN
1967-1989
"A Lifetime of Selfless Devotion
to Israel and the Jewish People"
MAY HIS MEMORY FOREVER BE A BLESSING

To mark the conclusion of Shloshim,
a service will be held in memory of our beloved
Rabbi MARTIN (Moshe) S. HALPERN
in Silver Spring, Maryland
We extend our sincere thanks to all who offered
condolences and support.
Halpern, Greenberg,
Loeshelle, and Zierler families

The unveiling of the tombstone of the late
ABRAHAM PROOS
will take place at the
Ramat Hasharon Cemetery (Morasha junction)
on Friday, January 13, at 11:30 a.m.
Ida, Ronald and
Leslie Proos

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סדרה של הרצל

News in Focus

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1995

The rush to build in Jerusalem Unlikely place for a battle

The Palestinian protests near Efrat have not affected plans to expand Jewish Jerusalem, Bill Hutman reports

If plans for 500 new homes on a barren hill between Efrat and El-Khader made the Palestinians angry, they are certain to be furious when they hear what Rina Zamir, Jerusalem district director in the Housing Ministry, has to say.

In an interview this week, Zamir said the construction of 10,000 units of Jewish housing will begin this year in eastern Jerusalem and nearby settlements.

All the work is being sponsored by the ministry.

"There is a rush to build in the Jerusalem area," said Zamir. "But it has nothing to do with the peace agreement," she added.

"The government has put a lot of pressure on us to speed up building because of the lack of housing in the Jerusalem area, and the effect this has on housing prices and the economy," Zamir said.

Government leaders, however, have said they aim to create facts on the ground that will torpedo Palestinian claims to eastern Jerusalem and adjoining areas.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer is among the most outspoken supporters of development in metropolitan Jerusalem.

His plans for the area in 1995: at least 2,500 housing starts in the new south Jerusalem neighborhood of Har Homa, 1,500 units in Pisgat Ze'ev in the north, and 1,000 units near Kibbutz Ramat Rabel.

Outside Jerusalem, some 2,200 new homes are planned for Ma'aleh Admunim, 1,000 for Beitur, 800 for Givat Ze'ev, and about 250 for Givon.

In addition, the Israel Lands Administration is behind the plan to remove the mobile homes from Givat Hamatos, and build at least 600 homes on the scenic south Jerusalem site.

The figures do not include the small private development plans of settlement groups such as Akhrot Cohanim and Elad in the Old City and eastern Jerusalem.

PALESTINIANS plan to counter these plans with a series of protests. "El-Khader was only the beginning," said Khader Shkirat, director of the Palestinian Land and Water Establishment for Studies and Legal Services, which monitors settlement development.

This week, their battle against Jewish development over the Green Line focuses on areas such as Ariel, Psagot and Kiryat Sefer. However, the group plans to take its battle to Jerusalem next week.

On Sunday a protest is planned against construction in Ramot and Givat Ze'ev. On Monday, the anti-settlement protest is to be taken to Ma'aleh Admunim, and Palestinian protesters and their Israeli supporters are to demonstrate Tuesday near Har Homa.

Shkirat's group played a major role in the protests against settlement expansion near Efrat.



Soldiers attend to one of their colleagues who was injured during the recent clashes between Palestinians and settlers at El-Khader, near Efrat. (AP)

For years, the Land and Water Establishment has sent out field workers to see first-hand where settlement expansion is taking place. It also relies on information from Palestinians seeking help in land expropriation cases.

Based in the Shuafat neighborhood of north Jerusalem, the group is not the only Palestinian organization involved in keeping a close check on settlement activity.

At Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem, officials with the Palestine Geographic Center also keep close tabs on the settlements. The center, part of Faisal Husseini's Arab Studies Society, has detailed files on Jewish development in the territories and eastern Jerusalem.

The files contain protocols and planning maps from the Housing Ministry, the Civil Administration, the Jerusalem Municipality and other Israeli bodies involved in development in eastern Jerusalem and the administered territories.

Foreign diplomats and even Israeli jour-

nalists and left-wing activists use the center as a source of information on settlement activity. The center also reports directly to the Palestinian Authority in Gaza.

Both the Palestine Geographic Center and the Land and Water Establishment work under the same basic assumption: All Israeli development activity in areas taken in the Six Day War is illegal.

"We see no difference between East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories," Shkirat said.

Jewish development in those areas "is a violation of international law. Occupying powers have no right to build on the land they have taken in war," he said.

A senior officer with the Geographic Center, meanwhile, said he was not surprised by the figures presented by Zamir. "We have been reporting to our leaders for some time about what is happening in Jerusalem," said the official, who asked to remain anonymous.

"It's about time they started doing something to halt it," the official added.

Efrat, always known as moderate, has been thrust into the forefront of the struggle for the Land of Israel, Herb Keinon reports

It is more than a little ironic that the settlement issue has come to a head at Efrat.

This settlement, some 20 kilometers south of Jerusalem, conjures up images of relative wealth, of modern Orthodoxy, of dentists and lawyers, of "pragmatism" and "moderation."

It is one of the most unproblematic-like settlements.

Although a confrontation with the Palestinian Authority over the settlements was inevitable and expected, it seemed likely that the flash point would be at one of the hard-core, Gush Emunim, "political" settlements — at a place like Elon Moreh, Yitzhar or Kiryat Arba.

But not at Efrat, birthplace of Chug T'chelet, an ideological group supporting the peace process; bastion of support for the moderate religious Meimad movement; and home to a population that includes 35 percent native English speakers.

For the settlement cause, said Yisrael Medad, a veteran settlement activist from Shiloh, it was fortunate that the opening battle over the settlements and land started in Efrat.

"This is both because it will wake up the people in Efrat, and because the country views Gush Etzion differently from other settlements," Medad said. "There will be more public support for us in Efrat than if the same thing had happened in Kiryat Arba."

Ever since the Rabin government came to power, Efrat has been split between those who favor working with it to get the best deal under the Oslo agreement, and those who advocate fighting it tooth and nail.

This division — Efrat residents are loath to call it a rift — has been underscored by the battle over Givat Hatamar. Sitting at the local pizzeria, walking through the supermarket, or waiting for a public phone in the center of town this week, one heard some

people calling the compromise a victory, while others referred to it as a sell-out.

Which view predominates in this community of some 5,500 residents will be known in two months, when local council head Yonon Ahiman, architect of the compromise, is up for reelection.

"I did what I thought was best," Ahiman said about pushing for the compromise. "This is not a capitulation. We are continuing to build. Efrat is continuing to expand and grow."

Under the compromise, work on Givat Hatamar — which the Civil Administration and Housing Ministry had determined belongs to Efrat, but which El-Khader residents claim is theirs — was halted. At the same time, construction on Givat Hazayit, a hill adjacent to Efrat's northernmost neighborhood, was begun.

Ahiman has come under criticism from within the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, and from the Efrat Action Committee.

This committee, which said in a statement it represents "a significant number of residents of Efrat and Gush Etzion who oppose the policies and maneuvers" of Ahiman, declared the compromise "a grave danger to the entire Zionist enterprise."

Josh Adler, one of the leaders of the action committee, said: "He [Ahiman] screwed up. We are against any compromise on any part of Eretz Yisrael. We believe in the right to settle any time, anywhere. This has set a dangerous precedent."

Adler said the question is not merely a local one. "What's important for us is not only Efrat, but all of Eretz Yisrael."

Eve Harow, another action committee activist and a candidate for the local council, said this was not just a case involving Ahiman and his town. "What we are talking about is the whole Zionist dream. We can't only

think about Efrat, but about the part we are playing in the whole peace issue."

AS A compromise over the disputed Efrat hill started to come together Monday morning, leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza rushed from Jerusalem to Efrat for an emergency meeting.

"I wish they would just leave us alone on this," said an aide to Ahiman who requested anonymity. "They have their own agenda on this, and it is different from ours. I am concerned about what is best for Efrat."

The council, he said, is looking for an issue that could be a rallying point for massive antigovernment demonstrations that have not taken place since PLO chief Yasser Arafat arrived in Gaza in the summer. But Efrat's agenda, he said, must be to continue to grow and develop.

One council source said that despite opposition to the content of the compromise and Ahiman's "lone wolf" manner of carrying it out, the council could not be seen to contradict his wishes and project an image of being divided.

"The government is interested in dividing us, the source said. 'We can't give it the satisfaction.'"

Itamar Marcus, an Efrat activist in the centrist Third Way ideological movement, said: "I am absolutely against the government's decision to stop building on Hatamar. But what I do support is Ahiman's pragmatism in continuing building on Hazayit."

There are two precedents that have been set here," he said. "The negative precedent is stopping the building on land that legally belongs to Jews. But the positive precedent is that Rabin has publicly and openly shown he is willing to expand greater Jerusalem. To reject this would be to cut off our nose to spite our face."

Obscure land policy has Rabin on shaky ground

HEALTH Minister Ephraim Sneh pounded the table during Monday's cabinet session on whether to permit the expansion of Efrat.

"If we all want to sit around this same table after the 1996 elections," he said, "then we should not antagonize so many people."

Indeed, ministers say privately they would rather have eliminated a settlement like Netzarim than have a high-profile confrontation over expanding Efrat, which they believe has broad sympathy among the public.

It was this sense of unease that led the government, despite Palestinian wishes, to seek a compromise that would mollify the settlers and avoid an erroneous public perception that the Rabin government is not committed to Gush Etzion.

It was out of fear of precisely this public reaction that the Rabin government opted for a two-phased Oslo solution rather than what it wanted to do, which was to proceed directly to territorial compromise. It would have preferred to have full control over some of the territories, rather than share control over all the territories, but believed the public was not ready.

Ironically, doing what it regarded as feasible instead of desirable has not spared the government criticism about Oslo.

Rabin's fear of public reaction to any definition of final borders — including which settlements will be dismantled — is so great that he does not want to talk about a final status map even with his own ministers.

However, not divulging the final-status map has, in some ways,

The prime minister must define his territorial policy — or it will be defined for him by Palestinians and settlers, David Makovsky writes

precipitated the Efrat debate. If the government refuses to define what it wants, both the settlers and the Palestinians will seek to define the government's position for it de facto.

The government faces a challenge: either define your own goals and limits, or have them defined by others.

Both the Efrat expansion and the protests by Palestinians in Al-Khader, Morag, Modi'in and elsewhere this week were bids by both sides to force the hand of a government that has not set down either geographic lines or principles for the final disposition of territory.

The government's absence of a blueprint creates a terrible public impression that it has no clear direction. Despite the fact that the future of the territories has been the overarching issue of Israeli politics over the last quarter century, the perception is that the government does not know what it wants and cannot articulate a vision of how separation between Israel and the Palestinians will ultimately occur.

This comes at a time when territorial focus is becoming more critical than ever, now that the government is starting negotiations over the next phase of the peace process, redeploying away

from additional Palestinian population centers. While the interim agreement is not supposed to prejudice final-status talks, every senior official privately admits that what is given now will not be returned.

Joseph Alpher, author of a newly released study on territorial compromise and newly appointed Israel-Middle East director of the American Jewish Committee, concurs.

"The Efrat issue strikes at the very heart of the government's dilemma as it moves into talks with the Palestinians," he says, adding that the government needs to develop a "clearly defined concept" of the final status if it is to avoid endless challenges from both settlers and Palestinians.

Apart from a few patches of land for security or topographical advantage, Alpher believes Israel should seek to keep areas with large Jewish populations and yield much of the remaining territories. He says Israel should seek a deal to keep around 11 percent of the territories, since this is where 70 percent of the settlers live.

The Alpher proposal, which includes at least part of Efrat, has been publicly embraced by peace negotiator and Environ-

ment Minister Yossi Sarid. The lack of a blueprint creates the public impression that the government is backing away from populated areas of Gush Etzion. Ministers privately say this is not the case, but are bitter that settlement leaders keep broadening the geographical definition of what constitutes Gush Etzion. However, once again, the ministers do not want to say this publicly for fear of public reaction.

While the territorial issue appeared foggy this week in the cabinet, other matters seemed to come into clearer focus. Ministers, who used to cover before Rabin, are now afraid to be openly critical. This might be the price Rabin is paying for his flip-flops on the capital-gains tax and the parliamentary disarray over an extended school day.

Indeed, losing political altitude has genuine consequences. Blaming Rabin for the current fiasco, the cabinet forced him to agree this week that now the entire body will review any plans for settlement expansion, which cannot just be worked out as a private deal between Rabin and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer.

People like Immigration Minister Yair Tsaaban and Justice Minister David Liba'i have made it clear that this means far more scrutiny than there has been until now. An immediate consequence is the likely end of most IDF land confiscations from Palestinians.

It is tautological, but until things are clarified publicly, the public can only remain confused. Leadership does not just mean setting a direction; it also means articulating it so the public understands and can decide whether it wants to follow.

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Gaza high rises soar, while Arafat's pier sinks

The independent Palestinian Housing Council, and not the PA, has experienced success during the first six months of Arafat's rule, Jon Immanuel reports

A series of highrise buildings going up on the outskirts of one of Gaza's worst refugee camps may symbolize the future. On the other hand, the future may be the makeshift port sinking into the sea near the headquarters of the Palestinian Authority.

The Jabalya project, and three others in Khan Yunis, Nuseirat and Rafiah, totaling 600 apartments, are the forerunners of 10,000 planned units, to be completed by 1998.

Housing is the first priority of the Palestinian Authority, and because the Palestinian Housing Council, which has overall supervision over housing construction, was up and running two years before the Palestinian Authority arrived to reorganize things, it is now building while other PA projects exist on paper only. It also says something about the relations of foreign governments with the Palestinian government.

Phase one of Jabalya's project is funded by USAID, the US government agency. Its six buildings with 192 apartments are under the management of Louis Berger International, Washington-based construction management contractors. Phase two, seven buildings, with more than 200 apartments, is to be funded by the European Union and the PHC. Another Jabalya project, police housing, is to start this year with \$10 million from Japan channeled through the UN Development program.

The Americans, Europeans and Japanese all rely on local contracting teams, local equipment and local techniques. However, American project manager Frank Kowal has supervisors "on site full-time, watching every phase," while the Europeans trust the Palestinians more. They rely mostly on the PHC to supervise, while the Japanese, relative newcomers to the Middle East, place their faith in the UN.

None of them are trusting enough to channel project funds

directly through the Palestinian Authority ministries where PA chairman Yasser Arafat could dispose of them as he sees fit.

The donors' distrust has irked Arafat, who initiated his own independent projects. The most prominent is the seaport down the road from his office, begun almost as soon as he arrived in July. For several months it was inaccessible, guarded by an electronic gate and armed police. It was to be a model for an independent Palestinian economy, freeing the PA from foreign money and Israeli restrictions on imports and exports. Thousands of Palestinian workers would work there. Arafat, who trained as a civil engineer 40 years ago, would provide the guiding hand.

The chief engineer is Maher Mamdouh, an adherent of the quasi-mystical Dawa sect, who resembles a Gulf fisherman in his simple robes and ragged turban. He told Arafat that "for \$3 million, the fee of an international consultant, I can build the first stage of the port."

Reality proved a drawback. Egypt did not send the seaport hydraulic cement Mamdouh ordered, and Israel dumped his first truckload of Hebron rocks into the sea near Erez, saying that Arafat could not build a port without coordinating with the joint security committee.

Undeterred, Mamdouh continued pounding the steel legs into the seabed with a homemade power hammer. Unprotected by cement or a wave-breaker, the hollow steel supports buckled when storms hit the coast last month. Almost half the length of the pier, at a cost of \$350,000, sank into the sea.

Some of that money was raised from taxes, which the Palestinian Authority has been telling reluctant merchants it needs in order to build the state.

The port and other wasted funds did not help the PA ministries when they went calling for aid.



When PA Housing Minister Dr. Zakaria al-Agha went fundraising in Canada and the US last month, he returned empty-handed. He succeeded only in confusing the donors and hurting the PHC.

"Aid has slowed while all the foreign countries - the US, the European Union, Japan - have asked us [the PHC] to define our role in relation to the Housing Ministry so that they can know with whom they are dealing," says Louqane Khair, PHC public relations committee chairman.

The PHC treats a thin line. It receives aid which Arafat is refused, but it cannot operate in Gaza without Arafat's blessing. In other sectors Arafat has played off one department against another, whether he has two security agencies or two economic ministries.

The problem of figuring out who is responsible for what has been a major cause of the delay in promised funds in other areas, one involved Western diplomat said. "It is the traditional Arab way, except that the other Arab

states are much older."

This happened with PEC-DAR, the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, which Arafat feared would operate independently of him. Last summer, donors were perplexed when PA Finance Minister Mohammed Nashashibi opened a separate channel to the donor countries and told them to transfer funds directly to his ministry instead of to PEC-DAR.

The PHC, being one of the few Palestinian agencies working well so far with Europe and to a lesser extent the US and Japan, could provide a model for other Palestinian planning and management agencies, balancing the right measure of independence and intimacy with Arafat. Its competence will be tested against American management in Jabalya's Karamah project, named after the 1968 Israeli-PLO armed clash in the Jordanian town of that name.

When the first and second phases of building are complete in Jabalya, the buildings should

become home to some 320 families, many of them mired in the misery of one of the most crowded square kilometers on earth. The PHC has no experience in building infrastructure like roads and a sewerage system, but that could be part of its future.

SUCH HOPE for the future is entangled, however, in the problems of the Palestinian economy in general. Building homes may turn out to be the easy part. Selling the homes is where the real problems of Gaza's economy begin. How will refugees buy them? The PHC, which is to set prices, plans to offer easy mortgages over 15 years.

A finance system must be established. Mortgages require not only functioning Gaza banks, but a functioning central bank to support the commercial banks and guarantee loans and investments. The absence of a central bank has deterred private foreign and Palestinian investors who have visited Gaza recently.

There is no law which recognizes apartment ownership. "Legally, there is no such thing as an apartment owner, only the owner of an apartment building. The change in life-style is occurring faster than the change in law. The PA must catch up with laws in a functioning state," says the PHC's Khair.

An investment law, in the final stages of ratification by the PA, will provide all the incentives necessary for foreign and local investors. Economics Minister Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala) says.

But assurances against nationalization and promises of six-year tax-breaks are no substitute for institutions that guarantee payment and stability. And no one knows if Palestinian laws will be any more secure in the sea of political instability than Arafat's port.

Arafat and Hamas: An uneasy, but necessary, alliance

WHEN PLO chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Gaza six months ago, the Islamic and PLO opposition feared he would suppress them to consolidate his one-man rule.

They frequently assumed that Arafat's police would be more ruthless than the Israeli soldiers they were replacing.

At the very outset Arafat did opt for one-man rule. He scrapped a planned multiparty Gaza town council, painstakingly assembled by the mayor-designate and supported by Hamas, and in its place put a Fatah-only council.

But the Palestinian opposition and Israeli government were wrong about Arafat's readiness to suppress the opposition. Invoking the name of democracy, Arafat has allowed Hamas rallies and Hamas newspapers, and has even accepted the jeering tone of Islamic fundamentalists towards him.

The key to this somewhat contradictory arrangement seems to be necessity. Arafat needs tacit Hamas acceptance to consolidate his role as father of the nation. Hamas needs to demonstrate its opposition, but knows that it could be crushed if it opposes Arafat's Fatah police force too openly.

To assert itself, Hamas increased attacks on Israelis outside the autonomous areas, while avoiding complications for the Palestinian Authority's relations with Israel by not staging attacks from Gaza or Jericho (at least until last week).

Imad Falouji, a dark-suited young man with a clipped beard who edits the Arafat-authorized Hamas newspaper *al-Wakef*, speaks knowingly about Hamas-PA relations and the armed wing of Hamas, Izzadin Kassam.

In an interview at the Islamic Society, the Hamas headquarters in Gaza, he observes that the Islamic Resistance Movement has scrupulously respected Arafat's authority. "We have no argument with Fatah. We have a dialogue," he says.

"Bullets have not been fired at joint patrols or inside the Gaza autonomy," he claims. "We could have attacked [Foreign Minister] Shimon Peres [visiting Arafat in his office on December 21]. But Kassam would never attack him while he is here as a guest of the Authority."

The avoidance of clashes with Fatah is certainly different from the situation that existed three years ago, when Arafat described Hamas as "Zulus" undermining the Palestinian cause. The arrangement with Fatah has survived even the deaths of 14 people in the police-Hamas confrontation outside the Palestine Mosque on November 18. This, many thought, heralded the long-expected Palestinian police crackdown on Hamas. Hamas was expected to take revenge, but did not. Instead, attacks against Israelis increased.

"Sad Friday," as it was dubbed in the Arabic press, reinforced the need for a scapegoat. Israel, it was said, must have been responsible because it had the most to gain from war between Arafat and Hamas. The theme was picked up at the highest levels.

Arafat was quick to hint at Israeli collaborators in the mosque

using dum-dum bullets, and Hamas repeated its view that there were Israeli collaborators among the Palestinian police.

But since then, Hamas attacks against Israelis have pushed the limits of this understanding. "With Israel there are no laws of war," Israel does not understand law," says Falouji.

On Christmas Day, which happened to mark the end of the mourning period for the Palestinian dead, Eymen Radi, a policeman, left his home in Khan Yunis to blow up Israelis in Jerusalem.

This contravened an understanding with the Palestinian police not to originate attacks from Gaza and certainly not from inside the police force.

The bombing, which killed only the bomber, seemed designed to embarrass the police. Radi's picture in uniform was released to the press by his family, who were full of praise for his action. The Palestinian Authority dismissed it as the act of an isolated criminal who had been fired from the force because he was unstable. But he was clearly helped by others.

At the memorial meeting for Radi in Khan Yunis last week some 3,000 Izzadin Kassam supporters and mainstream Hamas spokesmen, such as Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, declared him a martyr and advocated more attacks. Finally, many participants fired in the air in contravention of rules banning weapons from political assemblies. Major Salim, a spokesman in the office of security chief Gen. Nasser Yusef, said several hours after the shots were broadcast around the world "that there had been no provocation. We did not hear of any shooting," he maintained.

On Monday, shots fired at Israeli soldiers from near a Palestinian police post caused Israeli soldiers to pursue and kill three policemen. One of the police officers, Ahmad al-Hamdan, was shot in the head and killed. The soldiers said that he was an Islamic radical, but that the police did not fire the first shot, as the Israelis claim, someone else tried to provoke an Israeli clash with the police. What is incontrovertible is that Izzadin Kassam activists led the demands for revenge at the funerals of the policemen.

Dr. Imad Sarraj, a Gaza psychiatrist, and as secular a Moslem as one can find, says: "Inside every Palestinian, there is a little Hamas supporter. People are schizophrenic. When they saw the soldier Shmuel Meiri on TV being beaten in Ramallah, they really felt sick. It was terrible to see people doing this. When it was over I would see these same people turn around and say, 'But really, what choice do we have?' The change in them was astonishing."

What made Sarraj's diagnosis particularly chilling was that it later turned out that most of the people involved in the spontaneous attack on Meiri were not overt Hamas supporters. They were ordinary people and Fatah activists, nominal supporters of the peace process.

"One of the major difficulties of Arafat's position is that he is torn apart by the limits of his agreement with Israel, seen in the example of [the] settlement dispute, and the aspirations of his people to statehood," a diplomat says.

Hamas exploits this problem by trashing the agreement but not going too far beyond the people's aspirations.

The position of Hamas concerning talks with Israel has remained consistent for several years. What they describe as their "minimum" position "does not differ much from Fatah's own official position - 'Israeli troop and civilian withdrawal to the 1967 borders,'" says Falouji. For that Hamas offers a straightforward cease-fire renewable every 10 years "if the people consent."

"Israel has two choices, a temporary cease-fire or no cease-fire," says Falouji.

This is a ridiculous basis for negotiations, but Hamas does not offer to negotiate. It wants to be the hand that directs Arafat in his negotiations. "We can never negotiate directly with Israel. There should be a third party. And I don't mind if this third party is the Palestinian Authority and Yasser Arafat," says Falouji.

The same hand is trying to guide Arafat, by poisoning the current agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, but in a way that will not offend Palestinian public opinion.

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Till death do us part from our land

Four Beduin clans are intent on retaining land in the Negev they claim is theirs, even if it leads to bloodshed, Amir Rozenblit reports

DAHALLA Abu-Gardood is waiting, and he's ready. In a tent encampment 40 km. south of Beersheba, he describes what he and hundreds of his fellow Beduin tribesmen will do if the government tries to evict them by force from land they claim as their own.

"If they force us to leave here again, we won't go anywhere but the cemetery," he said. "We will protect ourselves with stones, because we have no firearms."

Abu-Gardood, 44 and the father of two, is the unofficial spokesman of the group that has been squatting since December 11 at Bir Hadaj, disputed land just north of Moshav Ashdod.

But his is not the only response to the situation. Salman Abu-Hamid, 22, who graduated from a high school in the Beduin town of Rahat, is much more moderate, but in the minority. "If we are evacuated by force, we will return to the lands of our forefathers. If we are arrested, we will return here. But we will not fight against the state."

Both are members of the El-Azme tribe, which claims that four of its clans lived on this very land before being relocated by the government to Ramat Hovav, near a toxic-waste dump.

The Interior and Agriculture Ministries were preparing this week to have

police remove the Beduin families by force. At the beginning of the week, Negev District police came to the area to study their tent camp.

The clans have asked to establish an official settlement on the land. But the High Court of Justice last week rejected their petition and gave them until last Thursday to move out voluntarily.

Anyone who expected the High Court to rule in favor of the El-Azme tribe "is living in an imaginary world," MK Hashem Mahmed (Hadash) said during the High Court hearing.

Despite the court's ruling, the clans have not budged. Instead, last Saturday they held a rally attended by thousands of people. At the gathering, Democratic Arab Party MKs Abdul Wahab Darawshe and Taleb a-Sanaa issued statements reported in the media such as: "It's better to die than to hand over lands."

In response, MK Fini Badash (Tsoomet) asked the Knesset Speaker to lift the MKs' immunity so they could be tried for incitement.

During the court hearing, Justice Dov Levin said only a political decision could solve the tribe's problem.

THE FOUR clans, comprising about 6,000 people, were moved about five years ago from Bir Hadaj to the Ramat



Salem Haj Arheif, 80, building his house. This place is the future of my grandchildren. My fathers were buried here and I will die here. (Y. Oukbi)

Hovav area after the Interior and Agriculture Ministries declared the central Negev land a closed military area, much of it a firing zone.

They decided to return after they learned, through the Association for the Protection of Beduin Rights, that these lands, about 12,000 dunams, had

been leased by the state to Jews for agricultural use.

Clinton Bailey, a Tel Aviv University lecturer who has studied the Negev Beduin for 27 years, supports their claim that they have title to the disputed area.

According to historical evidence,

Bailey said, the clans have been in the disputed area for decades. Their presence was noted by the governor of the area during the British Mandate, he said.

Bailey stressed that the current government policy toward the Beduin is no different from the policy set by prime minister David Ben-Gurion in the 1950s. Its main aim was "to clear out the Beduin from the Negev," he said.

He has called on the government to allow the Beduin, who serve in the IDF, to explore all avenues which will allow them to stay in the disputed area.

IN LARGE tents set up at Bir Hadaj, representatives of the four clans sat around a fire this week angrily discussing the evacuation order.

"They told us that this land was going to be a 'military zone' and they moved us to the area of the chemical dumps at Ramat Hovav," Abu-Gardood said. "Now that it has become clear that this land is zoned for agricultural use, no one is more deserving than we to farm it," he said.

Id Abu-Sa'adi, another tribe member, warned that if the area were evacuated, he would come back even if this meant he would be arrested or sent to prison.

Nuri El-Oukbi, a Lod resident who heads the Beduin rights association, has come to the encampment often to give support. Now he is trying to calm tempers.

"We are starting from the basic premise that Beduin are Israeli citizens. As law-abiding people, we are turning to the state and saying it cannot dispossess [us] and expropriate thousands of dunams of land from Beduin residents and hand them over to a few."

"The government's plan is to imprison the Beduin in seven towns," he added, referring to towns in the Negev where Beduin have been relocated.

"We won't use force, but we will turn to international bodies and the media. If we are evacuated, we will use nonviolent means to return to the area," El-Oukbi said.

At this point, El-Oukbi turned dramatically to the men in the tent and exhorted them: "Please, do not use force, even if the authorities use force against you."

Ten days ago members of the Knesset commission of inquiry into the status of the Beduin in the Negev visited the disputed area.

Hundreds of Beduin were present at

the meeting and protested that the state was preventing them from settling there.

REPRESENTATIVES of the El-Gardood clan say they will stay in the area at any cost, even if it means bloodshed, and none of them is willing to hear about returning to Ramat Hovav.

Abu-Gardood described the conditions at Ramat Hovav as very difficult. He claimed that about 40 percent of the tribe have become infertile because of the toxic materials and chemical waste that flood its industrial area.

He pointed out that Segev Shalom, to which the state plans to transfer the factions from the disputed area, is a "refugee camp." He said he prefers to go to prison rather than settle in Segev Shalom.

IN THE disputed area, Salem Haj Arheif, 80, was building a house with his own hands. "My fathers were buried here and I will die here," he said.

"I am building my house in this place, which is the future of my children and grandchildren. In the few years I lived at Ramat Hovav, I felt that I lost half my life."

Salem Abu-Ayash, 63, spoke of his grandfather's well, located here, and about his connection with the land. "We have been living here since the days of the Ottomans. We don't want anything from the government. Just stay away from us. We aren't interested in progress at any price, especially if it comes at the expense of our land."

Among the old men, 14-year-old Ouda Al-Danfiri stood out. He was taking advantage of the winter vacation from school to sell fruit and vegetables to passersby.

With their 20,000 goats and 500 camels, the adults of the tribe prefer authentic Beduin life. They are even willing to drive 25 km. to bring water in containers to their encampment. Nevertheless, they take every opportunity to stress that educating their sons is the key to a better future for them.

Abu-Hamid, the moderate and educated young man, added: "We hope the Arab and Jewish MKs will help solve our problems. The government made the peace agreements with the Arab countries, but forgot to make a treaty with its Beduin citizens, who serve faithfully in its army."

"It's time the government found a political solution to the Beduin problem."



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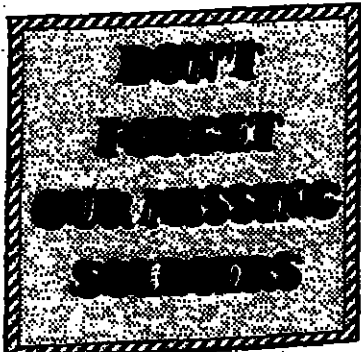
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Why the new historians really are anti-Zionists

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

READER Dan Leon of Jerusalem writes:

"David Bar-Il'an's 'Eye on the Media' column seeks out alleged inaccuracies in the way the media covers Israel and Zionism. I suggest that he re-reads what he himself wrote on December 9: 'Israel's new historians' - a euphemism for what used to be known as plain, ordinary anti-Zionists."

"This misleading generalization is surely either a slip of the pen or a slip of judgment; Benny Morris, for example, one of the best known new historians, is a self-proclaimed Zionist who criticizes many aspects of the realization of Zionism. If that makes him an anti-Zionist, the question is - according to what criteria?"

"Perhaps Bar-Il'an's criterion is that anyone who doesn't agree with him is an anti-Zionist. If so, he has no right to criticize other journalists for fixing their own, equally invalid, criteria when they write about Israel."

By confusing opinion with "inaccuracies," Mr. Leon commits an all-too-common error. "Eye on the Media" does not attack opinions as such; only distorted and misleading "facts" on which they may be based.

To express an opinion in a column or article is everyone's indisputable prerogative. And it is my opinion (shared, incidentally, by writer Aharon Megged, who published a comprehensive article about revisionist historians in *The Jerusalem Post* of June 17) that there is nothing new about the "new historians."

Defining Zionism as a manifestation of European colonialism, they write the same anti-Zionist harangues that characterized the writings of the Communist Party and its emulators in the 1930s and the 1940s.

Unlike the Nazis, Communist propagandists seldom resorted to outright lies. They mostly used carefully selected facts and pseudo-facts. They would describe the US, for example, in terms of the drug-dealing of East Harlem, the homeless in Lafayette Park, the unemployed in Kansas City and the Indians in Navajo reservations. Technically all these are not lies. They are 10 percent of the truth, which is the biggest lie of all.

That is why I found Yosef Lapid's description of the "new historians," quoted in the same December 9 column, so pungent: "A new historian is a man who tells our little hearts that Little Red Riding Hood, on her way to Grandmother's house, made a poop and it stinks... They stir the poop, smell it, spread it and

then write doctorates about it all in the name of refined truth. "[They] lie not because there is no truth in what they reveal but because they present their findings in a distorted way... The basic truth that no historian can overcome is that the Zionist movement was a humane and idealistic movement that with selfless determination looked for peaceful solutions."

When distortions of the truth are tendentiously marketed, when they serve a definite agenda, they must be defined as anti-Zionist.

To claim that the "new historians" portray Zionism as a murderous colonialist movement merely because they only seek the truth is a little like saying that "scientific" books which deny the Holocaust are merely the products of curious minds.

Those who cite Arab Legion memoranda, Egyptian diplomatic notes, reports by British and American diplomats stationed in the Middle East, and communications of UNRWA officials and Quaker relief workers as reliable sources about Israel - which is what Benny Morris does - are

tendentious writers with an anti-Zionist agenda.

Is "anti-Zionist" too strong an appellation? That the pre-state Communist Party and its successors have been anti-Zionist, despite the party leader's signature on the Declaration of Independence and the presence of Communist ministers in every Knesset since the state's inception, is a given.

But David Ben-Gurion had a broader definition for anti-Zionism. When Hashomer Hatzair, a generally constructive socialist movement, opposed the establishment of a Jewish state after World War II, he branded it anti-Zionist for publishing a manifesto favoring a binational state. This movement, now known as Mapam, may be forgiven for having an unblemished record of wrong political judgment. But when its venerable leader Ya'acov Hazan proclaimed that the Soviet Union was his second motherland, he, too, could safely be called an anti-Zionist.

So can those who today use Arab fabrications to bash Israel. The B'Tselem organization is a case in point. With its usual eagerness to believe Arab testimony,

it was quick to collect eyewitness accounts after the Hebron massacre. To its astonishment, the same witnesses gave totally different (and obviously dictated) versions of the incident to the Shamgar Commission.

B'Tselem bases much of its reporting on the internationally supported Arab "human rights" organization Al-Haq. This is what Al-Haq had to say about the recent Efrat incident: "On Thursday 22 December 1994, settlers from the settlement of Efrat [sic] brought bulldozers to land in al-Khader, a village of some 4,000 inhabitants, dependent on agriculture for its livelihood, in a bid to raze trees and crops on the land and thus make way for construction plans for a residential development. Local residents and activists then took up residence on the land, owned by 60 Palestinian families, thus preventing the razing of trees and crops."

This, despite the presence of journalists and cameramen who could see that the land was a barren, rocky tract which has never been cultivated.

One can only imagine what Al-

Haq would do with a less exposed story.

Yet there is little doubt that 40 years from now, a "new historian" will use this press release, and the news reports based on it, as irrefutable, documented evidence of the cold colonial brutality of Israeli settlers.

READING COMPREHENSION
Another letter is just plain puzzling.

"...Here you are, holding high and mighty the mantle of media ethics and righteousness as you quite correctly chastise and accuse Ms. Mary Leigh Summerton, the reporter from *The State Press of Arizona State University*, of attempting, unsuccessfully, to wiggle out of that Kotel and the paraplegic fabrication she concocted. Oh yes, how smugly you described and trod on her feeble efforts at rescuing her reputation and good name."

"But then along comes Councilwoman Anat Hoffman, snorting indignantly that the *Post* would even dare suggest that she in any way contributed to that pack of lies, demanding, in the best of Hollywood tradition, an immediate retraction and apology."

"My, my, how nimble we dance when the music gets hot and heavy. And, oh,

how we wiggle.

"Come on," Mr. Bar-Il'an, I must have read your column three times and can come up with not one blessed word in response to Ms. Hoffman's demand. Your readers, many of whom regard "Eye on the Media" as absolute gospel, deserve better than platitudes and verbal sleight-of-hand. Either you were off the money about Ms. Hoffman, or you weren't. Either the lady has coming to her a clearly expressed, unambiguous apology, or she doesn't. Sidestepping and tiptoeing around the issue is nothing less than unbecoming and, not insignificantly, injurious to your future credibility as a media watchdog."

"I therefore await, along with others no doubt, your final word on this matter. Quite frankly, I'm less concerned about the fable which Ms. Summerton's malicious mind conjured up than about the courage and integrity of *The Jerusalem Post*."

"A sentiment, sir, which I would hope you share."

Sincerely yours,
Barry Newman (Ginot Shomron)

In my innocence, I thought I made it quite clear that no apology was warranted and none offered. Perhaps reading the column a fourth time would help.

Beware the fake messiahs

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

OUR SOCIETY is in the throes of the most dangerous pseudo-messianic frenzy in Jewish history.

It does not threaten only us. It also bodes disaster for the entire Jewish world; for every part of the world that is concerned about Israel's fate in general, and in particular about our fate as the Jewish state; and for every part of the world that is affected by what happens in our region.

If not halted, this movement could bring about - *bring about*, not merely end in - the physical destruction of Israel, just as it has already brought about the discreditation of the age-old Jewish national vision and the century-old Zionist vision.

By no means do I mean the Habad/Lubavitch movement. Under the leadership and at the continued inspiration of the teachings of its recently deceased head, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, Habad has enhanced the prospects of Jewish commitment, unity and continuity far beyond what has been accomplished by those official Jewish survey-commissioners and education-coordinators.

Nor do I mean Chush Emunim, whom both the secular and religious left take such delight in maligning for taking seriously the classical Zionist/messianic platform: bringing the Jewish people home to, and restoring our national sovereignty in, our ancestral homeland.

(Contrary to the Rabin/Peres-led revision of our history, solving the Arab problem in general, and the "Palestinian" problem in particular, was [rightly] never a major plank in the Zionist platform.)

I mean the phantasm Rabin/Peres and their devotees call "the peace process."

We had better quickly realize what our alleged Arab partners in this process and all objective observers know: this is no "peace process," but a unilateral-concession process involving a partnership in which the Jewish state gives and the Arabs take.

Our Arab pseudo-partners know that, in the name of this process, Rabin/Peres and Co. are

ignoring Jewish history and aspirations; ignoring the history of classical Islamic and modern Arab attitudes to Jews and Judaism in general and Jewish sovereignty in particular; and letting themselves be mesmerized by occasional Arab smiles.

Rabin/Peres and Co. are also ignoring the long history of Arab statesmen as expert practitioners of the art, rooted in Islamic religious thought, of lying to and smiling at the enemy in order to throw him off his guard, divert him from his goals, weaken and destroy him.

Under the Jewish state across the wasteland of Moslem/Arab hate to a *faux morgana* land that our foreign minister seems to get an erotic thrill out of calling the "New Middle East."

Our purported Arab partners relish the thought that whereas common mirages stand, as it were, on solid ground or sea, this *faux morgana* hovers over an abyss, beyond the precipice, and every step forward brings us closer to the edge and, eventually, God forbid, tumbling over the edge into the abyss.

It is very late, but not yet too late to halt this death march, turn back, and bring about the replacement of the Rabin/Peres/Sarid/Alon/Bellin moonwalkers by Jewish/Zionist leaders who, among other things, do not chronically misquote the Jewish sources, falsify our history and mock our sanctities.

(Thanks to Hebrew University Prof. Raphael Israeli for the "forward over the precipice" image.)

THE FRENCH Dauphin in Shakespeare's *Henry V* and Napoleon made observations relevant to our situation.

The Dauphin says to his king: "...Self-love, my liege, is not so vile a sin as self-neglecting."

Napoleon said: "An army of rabbits commanded by a lion is better than an army of lions commanded by a rabbit" (quoted by Sidney Hook in *The Hero in History*).

SEVERAL READERS have asked me to explain my apparently cryptic reference recently to the Arabic name and acronym of Yasser Arafat's "moderate" wing of the PLO murder gang.

The name is *Harakat Tahrir Filastin* (Movement for the Liberation of Palestine). Accordingly, the proper acronym is *Ha'af*, or *Hauf*.

Ha'af/Hauf, however, means "sudden death." The founding PLO gang lords, to be sure, intended just that for their enemies (primarily us), as their leaders still do, but did not consider it an appropriate logo for themselves. So they reversed the acronym to *Fat'h/Fatah*, meaning "victory."

(Is it possible that they had an anxiety about the outcome of their dealings with our unilateral-concessionists?)

THREE WEEKS ago, in citing statements made by Winston Churchill in June and December 1937 that are appropriate to our present situation, I said he was an opposition MP at the time.

Churchill was then in the opposition, to be sure, but in opposition to the unilateral-concession tendency he saw in the new cabinet led by his own Conservative Party's Neville Chamberlain.

The following year, after the Munich pact in which Britain and France guaranteed the German-Czech border, Churchill warned: "While a policy of guaranteeing foreign borders is always hazardous, it may be justified in cases where the borders to be guaranteed have just been strengthened... To make a border indefensible and then guarantee it is the height of folly. The guarantor sponsors the deal primarily to avoid military confrontation, but does so in a way that ensures that any confrontation would occur on even more unfavorable terms. The interest of the guarantor becomes to find every reason not to deliver on the pledge. This encourages potential aggressors and dispirits the party whose borders are guaranteed."

(I thank David Wilk of Jerusalem for reminding me that Churchill was then a Tory backbencher, and not a member of what the English call His/Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.)

BRULIK



Commandments: Wings to the Almighty

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

OF the four sons who share center stage in the Pessah Haggada, the most notorious is the wicked child, the *rasha*. His question - "What do you mean by this service?" - is cited in this week's portion of *Bo*.

The main problem with this question is that it doesn't sound particularly wicked. A child's questions about puzzling rituals are generally seen as a sign of intelligence. Wouldn't indifference be far worse?

The Haggada stresses the word *lachen* in his question. What is this service that you do? This sounds as if he is removing himself from the observant community.

But the wicked child's query looks remarkably similar to that of the wise child: "When your child asks you tomorrow, saying, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord our God has commanded you?'..." (Deut. 6:20-21). So why is the wise child's use of "you" any different from that of the wicked child?

Perhaps the problem with the wicked child is that he makes no mention of God. After all, the wise child refers to commandments of "our God."

But if the lack of a reference to God is what makes one child more wicked than the other, what about the simple child, who asks:

"And it shall be when your child asks you tomorrow saying, 'What is this?'..." (Ex. 13:14).

RABBI YITZHAK Arama, known as Akedat Yitzhak, suggests that the wicked son is so called because of the manner in which he approaches his father and asks his questions.

The wicked child doesn't ask - he tells - as if his mind is already made up. "And it will come to pass when your children will say to you..." (Ex. 12:26).

But the wise child's verse is a genuine question. "When your child will ask you tomorrow..." implies that today he observes the Torah, and only "tomorrow" - after he has performed the commandments - does he ask his questions. But for the wicked child there is no idea of tomorrow. He wants his answers now - and if the answers don't satisfy him, he is prepared

to throw everything overboard. I believe, however, that the truest interpretation lies with the word *avoda*, service or work. The Jerusalem Talmud's interpretation of *avoda* is "back-breaking work."

When the wicked son says, "What is this work you're doing?" he's not referring to noble worship, but rather to hard, physical labor. His question is: "What is this bothersome and burdensome work that you break our backs with every year?"

The words of the wicked child should be seen within the context of the Egyptian experience: "It's bad enough that the Egyptians made us work; you have to make us work too!"

THE Jerusalem Talmud's translation helps us understand a fundamental concept of Judaism. Some see commandments as primarily a burden ("It's hard to be a Jew"). Others understand that the commandments are divine service, to be approached with joy.

The first chief rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Avraham Yitzhak Kook, discussed the importance of the individual who does not view the mitzvot as burdensome, but who

observes them out of love: Rabbi Kook calls the Sinai Covenant the Covenant of Free Choice.

The Midrash tells the charming story of the birds - right after their creation - approaching the Almighty with a complaint. Representing them was the dove, who argued that in the face of much larger animals, the birds were terribly disadvantaged. So God fashioned wings for the birds.

But the next day the dove returned, crying that it was much worse. Yesterday, although they were small, the birds were also nimble and quick, and could escape the clutches of the larger animals. But with these two heavy appendages, called wings, they could barely move. The Almighty patiently explained that the wings weren't meant to weigh them down, but were actually the means by which the birds could soar over all the other animals.

Our Torah is a Torah of wings. The wickedness of the wicked child lies in the fact that he cannot see the Torah as anything but a burden. Commandments are hard work; they weigh him down.

The wise child, on the other hand, will use the commandments as wings. They transport him above all who wish to destroy him and bring him close to the Almighty Himself.

Shabbat Shalom

Even children understand the need to help others

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Unfortunately, donations to the Welcome Home Fund are not picking up. That leaves us no choice but to limit the aid we give to all those new immigrants

who are turning to the fund for help.

Please don't let the flow of contributions dry up. We have lots to do and many more people to help. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

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Leket: I'm not boring

Yehiel Leket has to deal with the 'charisma factor' in his upcoming battle against Avraham Burg for Jewish Agency leadership, Allison Kaplan Sommer reports



Leket: Favors quiet revolution. (Scoop 80)

YEHIEL Leket is getting sick and tired of being called a boring and colorless bureaucrat.

"Does it hurt me on a personal level? Of course it does. Wouldn't it hurt you?" says the 54-year-old acting chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization.

But Leket isn't sitting around licking his wounds. He is engaged in a battle to officially become chairman of the agency. Leket feels he must fight as fiercely against the impression that he is an anonymous functionary as he does against his rival, MK Avraham Burg.

"At my press conference announcing my candidacy, I pulled the most colorful tie out of my closet and showed it to the reporters and said, 'Look at this - now you can't think that I am colorless and gray.'"

If the agency were a Fortune 500 company, and Leket was acting CEO, he would be a shoo-in for the permanent post. After the previous CEO (former chairman of the Jewish Agency Simcha Diniz) stepped down after the credit-card scandal, it was Leket who stepped in, cleaned up the mess, and got the agency back into working order.

But the agency is not a corporation. It is the primary bridge between Diaspora Jewry and Israel. It carries out the vital work of the Jewish people: bringing new immigrants to Israel and spreading Jewish and Zionist identity worldwide. The agency's leader is expected to be not only an effective manager, but also a figurehead who can inspire Diaspora Jews and Israelis alike.

This is where descriptions such as "boring," "colorless" and "bureaucrat" come in when Leket's name is raised as a candidate for chairman.

While Leket's workmanlike and conciliatory style may help make backroom deals, he is hardly the hero with a glorious past as a general or an ambassador that fund-raisers dream of.

Leket asserts that the image of an anonymous functionary has been unfairly pinned on him by the more charismatic Burg and his supporters, a strategy he believes will backfire when the two men stand for election before the Labor Party's central committee.

"Maybe you can pull that stuff in election primaries," he says. "But the central committee is made up of 1,300 people, the vast majority of whom know me. So when they claim I'm boring, that is going to irritate the committee members who know I'm not a colorless guy."

Leket rarely refers to his rival as a single person. He describes Burg as a "Trojan horse" inside which are lurking cohorts Yossi Beilin, Hagai Merom and Haim Ramon.

He points to improved relations and cooperation between the agency and the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Education Ministry during his stint as acting chairman. He also implemented reforms that have put a check on spending, including the cancellation of credit cards for senior managers.

"I represent 1,000 accomplishments and no rhetoric. Burg represents a lot of rhetoric and no accomplishments.... He has never in his life been responsible for a significant budget, or in charge of a large team of workers, and he wants to run a complex organization with a budget of close to \$500 million with 1,600 workers all over the world."

Asked to describe the most radical change he would make in the agency if elected chairman, he pointed to one of the items in the seven-point plan he distributed when he announced his candidacy. In it, he proposes a "revolution" in attracting new blood into the organized Jewish world.

"Today the partnership is between Zionist leadership and Jewish philanthropy - between political parties and fund-raising organizations... we need a total change in the essence of the partnership. We should be talking about Israel and the Diaspora."

"On the Israel side, not just political parties, but also representatives from the whole society, academics, businesspeople, leaders of volunteer organizations, chairmen of immigrant associations, regional council representatives, and people from the arts [should become involved]. The same thing in the Diaspora - to draw not just from fund-raising organizations, but representatives of the broad spectrum of the Jewish community. So we can [have] a new partnership open to everybody."

But in the meantime, it is the politicians and the fund-raisers who are in charge. Although Leket is an unabashed member of Prime Minister Rabin's camp in the Labor Party and Burg is a protégé of Foreign Minister Peres, Leket says he does not want their race to become a competition between warring camps.

The reason, he believes he has many allies in the Peres camp who will support him if their vote is not viewed as a sign of their ultimate loyalty.

But before he gets to the central committee, Leket must worry about the "advise and consent" stage, when the Diaspora leaders on the board of governors put their stamp of approval on candidates.

It is these leaders who are said to be most concerned about the "charisma factor."

They have reason to worry.

"If Leket had only gone and lost 20 pounds, learned to dress better and taken some English and diction lessons, he would be having less trouble with the Diaspora," said one Jewish organization official.

Leket is urging the Diaspora leaders not to take either him or Burg out of contention during "advise and consent" stage. The two candidates, he says, should be permitted to fight it out in the central committee.

As for his fund-raising abilities, Leket contends he has held his own during trips abroad over the past year. Ultimately, he contends, it is the image of the agency as a whole and not of its chairman that matters when it comes to raising money.

"You can't make real changes with balloons and fireworks," Leket says. "First you need to create an environment which gives credibility to your product. And only then you can market it to the people."

Rising political stars head back to the future

THE WEEK THAT WAS

MICHAEL YUDELMAN



Labor MK Eli Dayan (top) seems to be going back to his Sephardi roots, with the help of Likud MK David Levy (bottom), while Alex Goldfarb will probably be chasing his own tail in his new position. Hanoach Guttmann

moderate religious people still left to vote for it.

The former Russians are also weary of their role as *freierin*, first for Likud, then for Labor, and are forming a party led by Natan Sharansky.

And last but by no means least, Yasser Arafat's advisor Dr. Ahmed Tibi wants a new Arab party. "The Palestinian citizens of Israel have a potential for 14 mandates. At this rate, we will determine who will be the next prime minister of Israel."

BIBI HERE, BIBI OUCH!

Unfazed by a troublesome knee, Bibi Netanyahu has been covering plenty of mileage, cashing in on his popularity from the Tel Aviv stock market to the Efrat feudants. Promises scattered generously in his wake.

At the stock market on Ahad Ha'am Street Bibi was voted the most popular politician - not unconnected with a pledge to cancel the despised capital gains tax.

"Those Mapainiks," he scoffed, blasting tax-law demons Rabin and Shohat. "What do they know about a free market? Or about the stock market? They have no idea what they're talking about."

His problem knee - an old wound which periodically plays up, explained his spokesman Shai Bazak - did not deter him from skipping off to the Efrat hills to uphold the right of Jews to settle anywhere in Eretz Yisrael. Last word on the battle of wounded knee came from Tel Aviv reporter Vered Levy. She wrote that Bibi reacted with surprise when she asked him about it.

"Would? Army? On Shabbat, at home, he twisted his leg. That's all," she wrote.

PATTERNS OF TINY FEET

The right-wing views of the new deputy housing minister, Alex Goldfarb of Yitad, bring a splash of color to the already hopping ministry.

Goldfarb joined minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer (Fuad) on his feet-wetting tour of the satellite settlements this week. He kept very quiet throughout, waxing eloquent only when the journalists appeared: "We must build in every part of Eretz Yisrael, beef up all the settlements and double the number of Jewish residents in the territories."

Fuad is still pondering what time-consuming duties he can fob off on Goldfarb. One option is the impressive (but of course empty) title of coordinator between the ministry and other economic ministries.

A senior ministry source said Goldfarb will probably be assigned to chasing his own tail without any real authority to do anything significant.

Fuad himself had other dancing feet to attend this week as he played host at the wedding of his bureau manager Ziva Duga, 36, at Or Yehuda's White Hall. An overjoyed Fuad revealed that Duga's late father had introduced him to politics by persuading him to join Labor's Jerusalem branch 10 years ago.

There will soon be other tiny feet. Fuad is godfather-elect of the unborn daughter of his unwed personal assistant and press advisor Ofra Preuss, a 39-year-old reserve lieutenant-colonel, who is in her eighth month. The identity of the mystery father continued to intrigue ministry gossip as they watched Preuss dancing the night away with a dashing young bouncer.

"Oh, that's just a close millionaire friend," Preuss airily explained. She has no intention of leaving Fuad for motherhood and gushed: "Fuad is more protective of me than ever since the pregnancy and won't let me out of his sight."

NEW PLAYERS ON THE FIELD

Levy and Ramon are not alone in trying to cash in on the two larger parties' fall from grace in the poll ratings. Back on the scene is Meimad, that nice moderate alternative to the right-wing National Religious Party. It hopes there are enough nice

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Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

On January 1, 1995, the National Health Act came into force. This changes the health insurance arrangements for new immigrants

One effect of the new law is to provide health insurance coverage for immigrants, as soon as they arrive in Israel. New immigrants receive free health insurance coverage, as they did in the past, for their first six months in Israel. This ceases if an immigrant starts working during this period. Immigrants may choose to join whichever sick fund they wish.

An immigrant who starts to work in this period will pay dues, corresponding to his income. These payments will be transferred to the National Insurance Institute, in the same way as those of all other residents.

On arrival in Israel, immigrants are provided with a medical insurance form, which they should use to register with a sick fund.

All the arrangements for an immigrant's health insurance, previously applying and handled by the Min. of Immigrant Absorption, are canceled.

Immigrants who have in their possession slips for making health insurance payments to the Ministry, for January 1995 or later, are asked NOT TO USE THEM TO MAKE PAYMENTS.

For further information, please apply to your nearest Min. of Immigrant Absorption office.

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FIDE president wins third term

CHESS
NIGEL DAVIES

In a chaotic FIDE Congress, held simultaneously with the Moscow Chess Olympiad, Florencio Campomanes was re-elected president for another four-year term, defeating Bachar Kouatly of France.

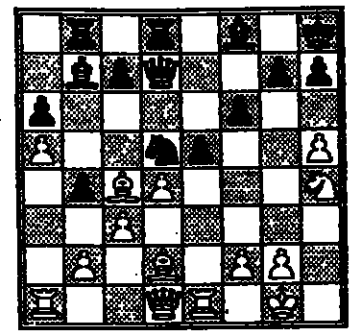
Prior to this vote, however, there were two days of controversy about whether Campomanes would be allowed to stand for this, his third term of office. FIDE regulations don't allow a constitutional matter or an electoral one. For a change in the constitution, a 2/3 majority would be required, whereas only a simple majority would be necessary for an amendment to the electoral rules.

Black's last move characterized the ultra-sharp Archangel variation in which the main line starts with 7.c3. Rather than engage in a theoretical duel, Adams evidently prefers to switch the emphasis of the struggle to the middle-game.

7...Bc5 8.a4 0-0 9.Nc3 b4 10.Ne2 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.a5

Preventing ...Na5 and leaving Black's queenside permanently dislocated.

12...Kh8 13.c3 Be7 14.Bc4 Qd7 15.Re1 Rf8 16.Bd2 Rb8 17.Ng3 18.h4 Bf8 19.h5 Nce7 20.d4 Nf5 21.Nxf5 Qxf5 22.Nh4 Qd7



In the end, a vote decided that it was indeed an electoral matter; another vote went narrowly in favor of allowing a third term. Still another vote was necessary to allow Campomanes's ticket to be admitted at such a late stage. Only then came the final showdown between Campomanes and Kouatly.

Campomanes favors unification between FIDE and Gary Kasparov's Professional Chess Association, the PCA. Apparently, however, he does not have much choice, given the financial and political difficulties in which FIDE has found itself.

Campomanes received considerable support from the pro-Kasparov Russian Chess Federation, headed by Andrei Makarov. Not only does Makarov have influence over more than a dozen other votes from former Soviet and Yugoslav states, it was Russia that saved the 1994 Olympiad when Greece pulled out at the last minute.

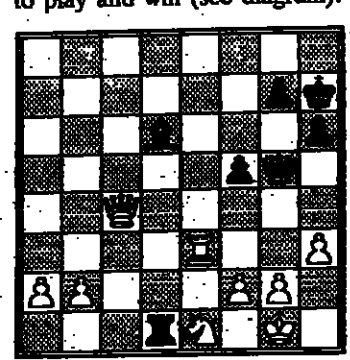
Makarov has now gained office in FIDE after being included on the Campomanes ticket. Yet in my mind there are unanswered questions about the feud last year between Makarov's federation and a rival Russian federation.

Back to chess. The following attractive game is from the first-round England-Mongolia match.

Adams - Tumurbatbayev
Spanish Opening
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4

23.Ng6+!! hxg6 24.hxg6 Bb6 25.Qh5+ Kg8 26.dxe5 Bxe5 27.Rxe5 fxe5 28.Bg5 Qe6 29.Bf7 1-0

Blocking the e7 square leaves Black's king with nowhere to run.



Solution: Black sacrificed his queen with 1...Qxe3! but, after 2.fxe3 Bg3! he won back the material, with an extra piece in the bargain. White resigned.



The queen mallow ('ma'og' in Hebrew) is one of three tasty mallows that grow wild here.

'Tis the season to seek mallow

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

THIS is the time of year to enjoy a walk in the fields and come back with mallow leaves - an ideal ingredient for soups, salads and even puff pastries.

There are three kinds of mallow here. The most common, found in every vacant lot, is *Malva rotundifolia*, so named for its round leaves. In Hebrew this plant is called *hehnil*, but most people refer to it by its Arabic name, *khubeiza*.

The queen mallow, *lavatera* ('ma'og' in Hebrew), a plant with larger leaves and blossoms, is also sometimes called *khubeiza*, although the plants are not that closely related, despite their resemblance.

Mallow leaves are not only delightful as a pastry filling, cooked like any other green, added to vegetable soups or chopped into a green salad. Large leaves are a rival to cabbage or vine leaves and they make excellent fried vegetable patties.

Like mallows, nettles can be found in any vacant lot or unweeded garden. To rid them of their less desirable quality, which gives them the common appellation "stinging nettles" (*sirpadim* in Hebrew), dip them for only a second in very hot water. Then they are perfect for nettle soup, a favorite in France, or in salads, where they have a decidedly nutty flavor.

These are the two best-known herbs for the table, but there are also two types of dandelion that grow in the hilly regions: the thick-rooted dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale* (*shinan av-shoreshet* in Hebrew) and the far more delicate hawkbit, *Leontodon lucinatum* (*shen ha'ari* in Hebrew). Both make a wonderful dish of cooked greens and a tasty addition to salads. The root of the

first variety is definitely sweetish and serves as a base for a well-known wine in the southern US.

The Cape sorrel, *Oxalis pes-caprae*, is found all over Israel though it isn't a native plant but somehow arrived from South Africa. Its leaves are sour but refreshing and it is a close relative of the plant called "sheep sorrel" in the US. Most people here call it simply *hantzitz*. It also goes well in a salad.

Then there are a multitude of young thistles. They are edible only when very young and tender, before their thorny edges harden and before the juice acquires a milky color. While they are truly tender and the juice is clear they are very tasty. Later on they become bitter.

These are just a few of the edible plants found right now in every corner of the land. They don't offer a feast of color for the eyes, but they are a treat for the palate.

Humble deuce in cutting epic

BRIDGE
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer
Neither side vulnerable

North		East	
♠	KQJ	♠	32
♥	AQJ62	♥	87
♦	QJ43	♦	10987
♣	5	♣	Q10843

South		West	
♠	1098764	♠	A5
♥	4	♥	K10953
♦	AK65	♦	2
♣	97	♣	AKJ62

Opening lead: ♠2

THERE are two areas of humbleness in the game of bridge: the lack of that character trait in most of the players and the ability of a player to see greatness in otherwise humble-looking cards. When a bridge player buttonholes you after a session it is rarely to relate a hand in which he did not take part. JQJ and usually is about a fantastic bid or play that only he found.

Regarding the second point, truly great players are often so consumed with the game that they can see the value of the lowest spot cards and take incredible advantage of them. Today's deal is the unique story of four deuces, and how they played significant roles in ... well, a not-so-epic drama.

It comes from Norway and was played about 30 years ago in an interclub match in Oslo. All the players were top ranked, and no doubt considered themselves top-ranked as well. West began with a one-heart opening bid and North doubled. Perhaps he should have made a more humble pass, because he was up to his ears in hearts and his double was for takeout.

In a case like this, my father taught me while I was still on his knee, that it is more prudent to wait in the bushes with such a

holding and see if the opponents get higher. At the table, the double did not succeed.

After South jumped to three spades, West bid his second suit, clubs, and East raised to game over North's four-spade bid. This contract of five clubs could have been doubled and set two tricks, but South, thinking his partner's best suit was spades, persisted to five spades, which bought the contract.

Norwegian Kjell Moen, who was sitting East, related the play of the hand: "My partner, West, led the two of diamonds [first deuce], recognized by everyone as a singleton. Declarer, seeing the necessity of a scissors coup, won in hand and took the heart finesse. He then cashed the ace of hearts for a club discard and led the deuce of hearts [second deuce] from dummy, with the intention of discarding his last club.

"Spotting his sinister plan, I disrupted it by ruffing the heart deuce with the spade deuce [third deuce]. Declarer overruffed and led a trump, his last resort. My partner took his ace and underled his clubs [leading the fourth deuce] to my queen. Then I was able to give him his diamond ruff, which was the setting trick."

The Scissors Coup, by the way, is a maneuver in which you cut the communications between the defenders by discarding a loser on a loser. When declarer tried to sneak that deuce of hearts by East, he was intending to throw his second club, which would have prevented the subsequent move by West of leading his deuce of clubs to East.

Just give them a little attention

GARDENING
INEZ KLIMIST

YOU don't really have to talk to your houseplants to make them grow better. But giving them regular attention will help avoid heavy damage from pests and disease.

Keep the plants well groomed; pick off dead leaves and wilted flowers promptly. Wipe or mist the foliage every other week with clear, tepid water, to help the leaves breathe and give them a healthy sheen. This also helps remove insect eggs and spider mites, and discourages other pests before they can infiltrate.

It is also healthier for the plants than the commercial leaf shiners, which tend to clog leaf pores. And the ritual will keep you in touch with your plants and their condition.

Winter is hard on them. Dry hot air and drafts are no healthier for plants than they are for us; in fact, we recover from a cold much more easily than a potted plant will.

Sometimes a plant's decline can be corrected simply by a change of environment. Many amateur gardeners run for the chemical spray or the watering can at the first sign of trouble, such as wilted or browned leaves. A simpler remedy may be better, and more water may be exactly the wrong treatment.

Some common causes of trouble:

- Brown or yellow leaves, dry edges: Too much direct heat, too low humidity, soil too wet or too dry.

- Yellow or white rings on leaves: Use of cold instead of tepid water, causing shock to the roots.
- Pale leaves, weak growth: Too little light, too much heat, too much nitrogen-rich fertilizer.
- Slow growth: Sour, poorly drained or compacted soil, cramped roots. The plant might also be in a naturally dormant state.
- Collapse of entire plant: Usually root rot from too much water, or extreme cold.

Dry, crumbling leaves: Too much heat, not enough humidity, possibly red spider mite.

Leaves dropping: Extreme temperatures, cold water, too little humidity.

None of these conditions requires chemical treatment. The most common source of trouble in houseplants, especially in winter, is overwatering. Cold drafts and overfertilizing are next. In winter, growth is slower or stopped altogether, so less of everything is needed.

MY COLUMN on December 9 ("Ice plants yield seas of brilliant color") generated a lot of confusion. Americans have a different plant vocabulary from the British and South Africans.

The American ice plant is a

succulent of the genus *Mesembryanthemum*, family *Lampranthus*. Its leaves are long, and triangular in cross-section. It thrives on salty air and sandy soil and is hardy in winter. It is used widely in the American West (especially California) to cover highway medians and slopes where nothing else will grow. Some people call it "hottentot fig" because of the bulbous fruit that forms after the blooms fade. In Hebrew, it is called *natizitz*.

Gardeners in the rest of the world, including Israel, use the name "ice plant" for *Sedum spectabile* (*tsurit levana* in Hebrew), of the same genus. This is also a succulent, but with a rounded leaf. Easy to grow and easy to propagate from just a leaf cutting, it, too, will reward you with masses of flowers. It can be a creeping low plant, but it may be 30 to 40 cm. tall. Other sedums are included in this group, and all of them are beautiful.



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ISRAELI FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL
Delegation Leaving for Oceania

Israeli Friends International is leaving on February 9, 1995 for the Far East for a 33 day tour.

The members will be guests of the Friends International of Hawera, New Zealand, and of Tweed Valley, on the east coast of Australia.

The delegation will also have the option of visiting Thailand and Hong Kong. Further details can be obtained from the coordinator, board member, Zimra Gil, Tel. 03-6351797.

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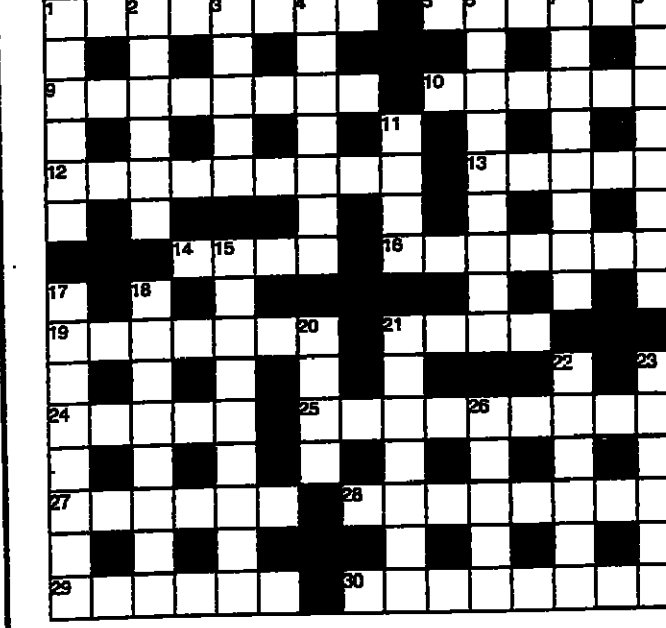
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**

 - Drudge keeps following main group of men (8)
 - Wife - will feel our absence? (6)
 - Ivan was such a bad Tzar (8)
 - Jam is a poor thing to eat on bread (6)
 - Tactic fallow applied to all his work (9)
 - A spin-drier, that's something extra (5)
 - Evidence of operation of second vehicle (4)
 - Not all sport's controlled by where the Scotsman's money is (7)
 - Love the sonorous and bombastic (7)
 - River of no value? (4)
- DOWN**

 - Ready to be filmed? Start! (5)
 - Bear with little Stanley's dalliance initially (9)
 - Spot, next to the boil (6)
 - Sweater has leaf embroidered around flower (4,4)
 - Takes off football clothes (6)
 - The restraint with which one should drive? (8)
- DOWN**

 - I'm in love, but go to prison (2,4)
 - Turn to arena, where matador may be suffering (7)
 - Wait round front of registry - for her? (5)
 - Provide free (7)



SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Stand, 2 Tenth, 3 Litter, 4 Ace, 5 Cello, 6 Xerox, 7 Rota, 8 Quince, 9 Corn, 10 Lute, 11 Abridge, 12 Adieu, 13 Pyre.

DOWN: 1 Tuba, 2 Navel, 3 Oriole, 4 Enlarge, 5 Truth, 6 Chain, 7 Scamp, 8 Next, 9 Cove, 10 Evident, 11 Ragwort, 12 Squab, 13 Organ, 14 Rebel, 15 Tuna, 16 Rada.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**

 - Robin Hood's forest (8)
 - Sandy sea shore (5)
 - Extremely lovely (9)
 - Type of lettuce (3)
 - Consumes (4)
 - Superficial burn (6)
 - Thinnish bat (6)
 - Weak, useless (6)
 - Concerning teeth (6)
 - Damage (4)
 - Utilize (3)
 - Cobbler (9)
 - Jottings (5)
 - Scare (8)
- DOWN**

 - Cavalry sword (5)
 - Stretchy (7)
 - Beside (4)
 - Place of work (6)
 - Month (5)
 - Scottish emblem (7)
 - Irish flannel? (7)
 - Dampness (7)
 - Goes back (7)
 - Bedding (7)
 - Bravery (6)
 - What you owe (5)
 - Halfwit (5)
 - Self-satisfied (4)



FERDINAND



R. M. K.



R. M. K.

Recalling an amendment that made big changes

Natan Sharansky talks about Henry Jackson, the bill he pushed through Congress 20 years ago and the cause he stood for. Batsheva Tsur reports

NATAN Sharansky never met Henry "Scoop" Jackson, but the US senator from Washington state was probably the man who had the most profound effect on the former Prisoner of Zion's life.

"I first heard of the Jackson Amendment when I became active in the dissident movement in 1973," said Sharansky this week. "Only later did I learn that there was a person called Jackson."

There are three landmarks in my life before leaving the Soviet Union: the Yom Kippur War, the Entebbe operation, and my arrest. But throughout, there was the Jackson Amendment.

Next week, an international conference will be held in Jerusalem to honor the memory of the Democratic senator and commemorate the struggle for human rights that he embodied. It coincides with the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment that made the granting of most-favored nation status to the Soviet Union conditional on the right of free emigration for Soviet citizens. Almost immediately, Jackson's name became synonymous with the movement for Soviet Jewry and the international human rights struggle.

For the former refuseniks, who owe their emigration and new lives largely to Jackson, the event has generated unprecedented excitement, Sharansky said. "We can hardly cope with the number of requests to attend the conference, many from veteran refuseniks who over the years have had nothing to do with the organized community [of

former Soviet Jews] here."

In the past 20 years, 696,000 Jews left the former Soviet Union for Israel. Tens of thousands of them were refuseniks and 800 were Prisoners of Zion.

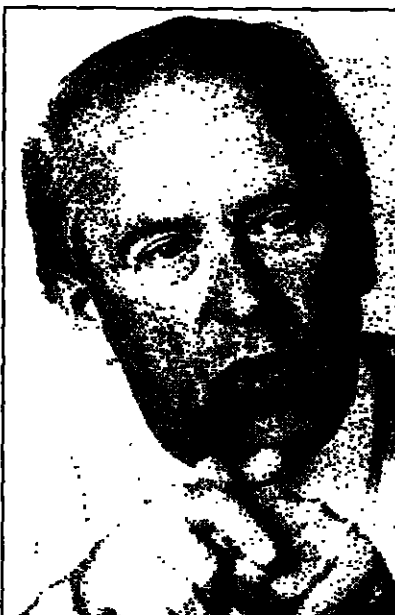
THE AMENDMENT was enacted during the dark days of Soviet rule. Sharansky recalled how, after the Six Day War, "we became Zionists - hundreds, thousands of us." To deal with the phenomenon, the Soviet authorities "had to create the Prisoners of Zion and the refuseniks. They gave no explanation."

"Then [the authorities] introduced the education tax. Jews could not survive there without education, but in order to pay the required 15,000 rubles, with an average monthly salary of 150 rubles, we would have had to work for more than 40 years. It was absolutely impossible," he recalled.

"The Brezhnev-Nixon detente was in the final stages and the Soviet Union was on the way to getting favored-nation status in return for not being too aggressive toward the West and releasing a few dissidents. Then came the Jackson Amendment and they retreated from the tax very quickly."

What Jackson said loud and clear was that there had to be free emigration and a move toward democracy before special benefits were accorded Moscow. Suddenly, the refuseniks realized, "we had a real ally."

"As Zionists we had a spiritual weapon: our Jewish heritage. But now we also had a historical and practical weapon: the Jackson Amendment."



Henry "Scoop" Jackson - the man behind the amendment. (L. Millman)

Sharansky said.

"The Soviet authorities immediately began blackmailing us. The KGB began detaining us, telling us it would become worse for us. Sometimes, they would meet one of the dissidents privately in a hotel and try to turn him into a collaborator."

Jackson constantly touched base with the refuseniks and other dissidents. He wanted to allay fears that his headline approach was harming the cause. Sharansky, spokesman for the Helsinki Watch, kept in touch with the tourists who brought material from the West and used their services to send feedback. "I sent hundreds of letters from refuseniks and dissidents, including [Andrei] Sakharov, to Jackson, encouraging him to keep up his fight.... He was our symbol of hope."



Natan Sharansky: Jackson gave us a practical weapon. (Ariel Jozovizki)

When he was arrested, Sharansky faced two main charges: high treason and anti-Soviet activity. The latter related to his involvement with the dissidents and refuseniks. "But the high treason charge - almost all 21 paragraphs of it - was connected with Jackson.... One of my interrogators asked me: 'Do you think you can pass this [Jackson] amendment and not suffer?' They calculated what they had lost as a result of the amendment and he told me that I was responsible for \$20 billion in damages. I was very proud to take credit then, although, of course, we all knew there were others responsible [for passing it]."

Sharansky is sad to think that he never had the chance to meet Jackson personally. His wife, Avital, who unsuccessfully fought for Sharansky's release,

did meet the senator. But Jackson died in 1983, at the age of 71. Sharansky was freed only in 1986.

Ohio Representative Charles Vanik's name is associated with the amendment because Jackson asked him to introduce it in the House of Representatives. Sharansky said of the congressman: "We met in Moscow in 1975. We were not impressed. He didn't know why his name had been used."

BECAUSE OF Jackson's unflinching stand, the amendment became the backbone of US policy. "It was the turning point not only in the exodus of the Jews but in the ultimate victory of the West over the Soviet Union in the Cold War," Sharansky said.

He added that Jackson's approach should guide Israel's leaders today in their demands for peace in the Middle East. "If Jackson were around today, he would say that Syria should first open its borders and then discuss its new borders.... With the Palestinians, too, we should not discuss details until they have taken care of their internal affairs."

"As a member of Peace Watch [which is monitoring the peace process] and a 'student' of Jackson, I believe we should follow his guideline that you do not move forward with the next step of an agreement without ensuring compliance with the former."

History, Sharansky said, "is made by God - but through those who are ready to fight. Jackson was a man of noble principles who believed that principles do not contradict practicalities."

Despite the epic changes in today's world, he said, it's important to apply this legacy.

"Jackson lived at a time when there were clear-cut choices between good and evil. In today's confused world, it's good to look back at those romantic times and to return to the realities of today equipped with the truths and legacies of heroes like Senator Jackson."

Living legacy

A conference starting Sunday is to mark the 20th anniversary of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. The three-day event, at Jerusalem's Laromme Hotel, will have as its honorary chairman Helen Jackson, senator Henry Jackson's widow.

Jackson is carrying on the senator's legacy by chairing the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, which provides grants to groups in the US and worldwide dedicated to furthering human rights.

The organizing committee for the event is cochaired by Natan Sharansky, now head of the Zionist Forum and an associate editor for *The Jerusalem Report*, and US businessman Nathan Golden, who will not be attending.

The conference will be addressed by luminaries from Israel and abroad including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, former US ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick, former undersecretary of defense Richard Perle, and Yelena Bonner, widow of Andrei Sakharov.

It is jointly sponsored by the foundation, the Zionist Forum, the American Enterprise Institute, the Hebrew University and *The Jerusalem Post*.

On Tuesday, the square outside the Laromme Hotel will be named in honor of Senator Jackson. B.T.

Moonlighting Barak makes sweet music - a prelude to his new career?

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

HIS soldiering days may be over, but former chief of staff Ehud Barak will go on demonstrating his talents as a concert pianist. Yielding to popular demand at a Beit Hanassi reception in his honor, and to a request from Amnon Shahak, the man who replaced him, Barak obliged with an interpretation of Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*.

COMMENTING ON his many radio and TV appearances in recent months, Barak told Israel Radio that, had the same media outlets been available to Moshe Dayan and Yitzhak Rabin during their transitions from military to political careers, they too would have appeared on every TV talk show. "Anyone who wants to be in politics has to look out for his ratings," said Barak. He also admitted to having already made one political mistake: holding his farewell party on the day the budget was passed. Most of the MKs invited gave a miss.

QUADRUPLETS celebrating a bar or bat mitzva are almost un-



Ehud Barak tickling the ivories on his piano at home. (IDF Spokesman)

heard of. And that's what made the event so much fun for the Brody bunch. Jesse, Amanda, Nicole and Benjamin Leffroff, together with their cousins Sarah Kell and Michelle Rosengarten, were part of a 21-member entourage accompanying their grandmother Frances Brody of Westfield, New Jersey, to Israel. The six who were celebrating the at-

tainment of religious responsibility were among 13 cousins in a group fete by Prof. Yona Chen, dean of the Hebrew University's faculty of agriculture, and staff at the HU's Rehovot campus. Frances Brody and her late husband, Herbert, have their names linked in perpetuity with the campus, whose main street is Brody Boulevard.

WATT FUN! Former Police Commissioner Rafi Peled had a high-voltage start to the new year when he took up his new post as managing director of the Israel Electric Corporation on January 1. Peled has learned the hard way that being in the limelight sometimes has a high price. A widely published photograph of Peled and other senior police officers in the jacuzzi of a Tiberias hotel led to an investigation into whether the large discounts he received were acceptable gifts. Though exonerated, Peled subsequently resigned. Fortunately, Police Minister Moshe Shahal was still energy minister at the time, and was able to arrange a job with more clout and better pay.

DECEMBER/JANUARY is traditionally the season for tourism from Australia. Numerous guests attended a cocktail reception at the elegant Jerusalem penthouse of Isi Leibler, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, and his wife, Naomi. The event was in honor of the first visit to Israel by the combined Jewish leadership of Australia, operating under the umbrella of the ECAJ.

Isi and Naomi Leibler have talked many times of settling



Capricorn celebration for Prima Rosenbloom. (Israel Sun)

here. The key obstacle is Leibler's passion for collecting books. He is reputed to have one of the largest private collections of Judaica in the world.

Spacious though his penthouse may be by local standards, it doesn't have quite enough room to comfortably house his 28,000 volumes.



Birthday lady, Anna Herzog. (Karen Ben-Zion)

ANOTHER AUSTRALIAN dignitary currently in Israel is Rabbi Chaim Gutnick, one of the most respected figures in Australian rabbinical circles. Gutnick participated in the national gathering of Ger Hassidim convened in Jerusalem last week by Rabbi Pinchas Menachem Alter, the powerful Gerer Rebbe, Agudat

Yisrael strongman and mentor to the Knesset's United Torah Judaism party.

The gathering aroused controversy in the Jerusalem City Council when Deputy Mayor Haim Miller, one of Alter's followers, requested a retrospective grant of NIS 150,000 to help defray convention costs.

THE ANNUAL study tour of The Board of Deputies of British Jews was led by eminent barrister Edward Tebichnick QC, education officer Jo Wagerman OBE (who is the board's vice president), and Flo Kaufman JP, who chairs the Board's Israel committee.

In addition to meetings with President Weizmann, cabinet ministers, Knesset members and experts in various fields, study-tour participants also visited Jordan.

COSMETICS QUEEN and canny businesswoman Prima Rosenbloom enjoyed a 40th birthday bash, organized by husband Moshe Haim. Other well-known Capricorns include Anna Herzog and singing star Yaffa Yarkoni, December 24; and former editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Ari Rath, January 6.

WIDELY PERCEIVED as the person with the artistic and administrative acumen to pull the Habimah National Theater out of the doldrums, Yaakov Agmon, together with his wife, stage and screen personality Gila Almagor, last week directed what was for them a much more important production - the marriage of their daughter Hagar to Ra'anan Carmon.

TO BE named the recipient of the prestigious Marconi Prize, awarded in recognition of substantial contributions to communications technology, would be a great honor at any time, but more so in the centenary year of Guglielmo Marconi's successful experiment in devising a wireless telegraph. The happy laureate is the Technion's Prof. Ya'acov Ziv.

RECOGNITION in another field has been accorded to Moshe Yegar, Israel's ambassador to the Czech Republic, whose Academy of Sciences has awarded him the Gold F. Palacky Medal for Merit in the Social Sciences. The award is in appreciation of Yegar's work in dealing with questions of Islam in the historical and social development of some Asian countries. The academy also lauded Yegar's continued support for interaction between Israeli and Czech scholars and scientists.

ANYONE WHO'S ever wondered what it would be like to have Teddy Kollek as a luncheon companion can bid for the privilege this Saturday night, at Jerusalem's Leo Modell Hall in the Beit Ha'am building. A luncheon hosted by Kollek is the star attraction of the annual auction of the Jerusalem region of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel. Organizers have spread the word that the bidding for his company will not start low.

Committee of University Presidents Israel's Universities Announce

Registration for the 1995 - 1996 Academic Year

Registration ends on February 28, 1995

Registration forms, including information booklets, can be purchased at all university bookstores and other bookstores or obtained by mail, as indicated below.

National Institute for Testing and Evaluation
Israel's Universities
P.O. Box 26015, Jerusalem 91260, Tel. 02-759555

Inter-University Psychometric Exam

Psychometric exams in Hebrew, Arabic, Russian and Combined/English will be held on April 12-13, 1995.

Registration forms must reach the National Institute for Testing and Evaluation by March 2, 1995.

Registration kits, in all languages, are on sale at university bookstores and Steimatzky bookstores.

The registration kits include comprehensive instruction booklets containing general information, parts of tests with explanations for independent study, and a complete previous exam for practice and for calculating approximate test scores.

Overseas Exams

Psychometric exams will be held in several cities in Europe, the United States and Latin America during April-June 1995 (depending on number of applicants).

Registration for the exams in the United States and Europe will end on March 24, 1995, and for Latin America on May 21, 1995.

Applicants should contact the Coordinator of Overseas Exams, at the Institute, at the above address, or by telephone.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Those applying in January will pay a reduced registration fee.

Registration offices:
Admissions office - for those with a matriculation certificate from Israel or from an Arab country: Frank Sinatra Building, Mount Scopus, Sun. - Thur. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., or Tel. 02-5822852, 8822888, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. only.

Overseas Students Admissions Office - for applicants with foreign certificates: Goldsmith Building, 3rd floor, Mount Scopus, Sun. - Thur. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tel. 02-6826077; for Russian speakers: 02-883184.

Registration forms and information booklets:
At the Hebrew University in Jerusalem - Academic stores, Steimatzky bookstores throughout the country and other university bookstores. By Mail: Send letter of request with postal order for NIS 60.50 to Academic, P.O. Box 41, Jerusalem 91000.

TECHNION
Israel Institute of Technology

Undergraduate Studies
Registration forms and information booklets are available from: Michol, Technion, Haifa, Tel. 04-322970, also at all university bookstores and at Steimatzky stores in major cities. By Mail: Send request with check for NIS 60.50 to Michol, The Technion, Haifa 32000.

For additional information, Registration and Admissions Office: Ullman Building, at the Technion, Sun. - Thur. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; information also available by phone: Tel. 04-229129, throughout the day. New immigrants and applicants with an academic background: Sun., Tue., Thur. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

Those applying in January will pay a reduced registration fee.

Registration and Admissions Unit:
Main Building, Room 776, Sun.-Thur. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Recorded information - Tel. 04-240324; for undergraduate studies (B.A.) - 04-240325/6; 249103; for advanced studies - 04-240663, 04-249103. Offices closed on Fridays. Buses 24, 36, 37, 38, 91.

Registration forms and information booklets: At Granit stores at the University of Haifa and throughout the country; Michol stores at the Technion, the Faculty of Medicine at Rambam Hospital, and at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev; at Dionon stores at Tel Aviv University and Bar-Ilan University; at Steimatzky stores in Haifa and other major cities.

Or by Mail: Send letter of request, with check for NIS 60.50, payable to Granit, University of Haifa, Haifa 31905.

BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV

Those applying in January will pay a reduced registration fee.

Registration Office:
Ein Gedi Building, 4 Wolfson St., Sun. - Mon., Wed., Thur. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tue. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tel. 07-461039, 07-461041. Phone calls will not be answered during reception hours.

Registration forms: At Dionon stores at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Tel Aviv University, and Bar-Ilan University; at Michol stores at the Technion and the University of Haifa; and at Academic stores at the Hebrew University, Givat Ram and Mount Scopus campuses. By Mail: Send letter of request with postal order for NIS 60.50 (which includes cost of postage) payable to Dionon, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, P.O.B. 653, Beersheva.

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

Those applying in January will pay a reduced registration fee.
Registration Unit:
Registration and Admissions Office - 25 Klatchkin St., Room 35, Ramat Aviv, on Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and Tue. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tel. 03-6422086.

Applicants with academic credentials from abroad: Sun., Mon. and Wed. only, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Room 27, Tel. 03-6408317.
Registration forms and information booklets are available at the Dionon stores in the Eric Mitchell Student Union Building, Tel Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Herzliya (Interdisciplinary Center), Rishon LeZion (Canion). By Mail: Send letter of request with check for NIS 60.50, by registered mail to: Dionon Publishing House, P.O.B. 39287 Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv 61392.

BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

Those applying in January will pay a reduced registration fee.
Registration Office:
Midreshet Feinberg, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot 76100, Tel. 08-343843. Registration for the M.Sc. degree ends July 1, 1995. Registration for the Ph.D. degree continues throughout the academic year.

BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

Those applying in January will pay a reduced registration fee.
Registration Office:
For Undergraduate (B.A.) Students: Hamigdal Building, ground floor, Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and Tue. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tel. 03-5318556.

Buses from Tel Aviv - 45, 64, 68, 70; from Rehovot and Rishon LeZion - 164, 165; from Holon and Bat Yam - 43; from Petah Tikva - 87, 164; from Jerusalem - 400. Registration forms and information booklets for Undergraduate (B.A.) and Graduate (M.A.) Studies: At Dionon, Bar-Ilan Student Union Building, ground floor; Dionon at Tel Aviv University; Academic stores at the Hebrew University, Michol stores at the University of Haifa; Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and the Technion.

By Mail: For B.A. degree: Send postal order for NIS 60.50, payable to Dionon. For M.A. degree: Send postal order for NIS 33.50, payable to Dionon, for Registration Forms, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan 52900.

For Ph.D. studies, at the office for Ph.D. studies, Hamigdal Building, 2nd floor.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1995

15

Leumi to sell off share in Hungarian subsidiary

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi has signed an agreement to sell its 50 percent share in **Leumi-Credit Bank RT** to its partner, **Hungarian Credit Bank**.

Banking sources forecast **Bank Leumi's** losses in Hungary will reach more than \$10m., the bank's initial investment in the subsidiary.

The subsidiary was established in 1991.

Israel Porat, head of **Bank Leumi's** international division, said it will continue to direct clients to **Hungarian Credit Bank**. In addition, the two banks have established a joint company which will collect classified debt.

Leumi-Credit Bank's losses in 1993 totaled \$4.8 million, even though it participated in a Hungarian government debt arrangement program intended to improve its situation. In the framework of the agreement, the government transferred to itself

IN a surprise move, **Israel Chemicals (ICL)** chairman **Victor Medina** yesterday submitted a letter of resignation to the company's board of directors, claiming undue government interference in the company's management.

Medina made the announcement during a board meeting called to consider **Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish's** request to move the headquarters from **Ramat Gan** to **Beersheva**.

Prior to the meeting, **Harish** sent the directors a letter, saying that **Medina's** opposition to the move had antagonized **Negev** local officials, **Knesset** members and ministers, whose support is necessary for passing the **Dead Sea Concession Law** and the **Business Licensing Law** essential for **ICL's** operations.

Medina accused **Harish** of turning the proposal into a political issue and putting pressure on directors in an attempt to get them to vote in favor of moving **ICL's** management offices.

The dispute reached its peak yesterday after **Harish** and **Knesset**

ICL chairman Medina resigns

Decision is a result of gov't interference

JOSE ROSENFELD and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

set **Negev** caucus chairman **Shmuel Avital** addressed the board meeting, in an attempt to convince the directors to move the management offices.

Medina then told the board, "More than a year ago, the Minister of Industry and Trade asked for my opinion on the implications of moving **ICL's** headquarters to **Beersheva**. I told him the move will hinder the headquarters operations and ability to work efficiently.

"In the past few months, the issue has turned into a political issue. As someone with respect for the legislature, the authority of the minister and the public's chosen representatives, I have to consider their request with great seriousness.

"On the other hand, as an **ICL** director I must remain loyal to the company, as required in the government companies law - that is, to act according to what, in my opinion, is in the company's business interest and not extraneous considerations.

the company's shares by the end of February.

"The straw that broke the camel's back was **Environment Minister Yossi Sarid's** proposal to apply the **Business Licensing Law** to **ICL**," said **Bar**, referring to a heated meeting in **Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's** offices on Wednesday night, at which **Medina's** objections were reportedly overruled.

According to an official, the application of the business licensing regulations to **ICL** "will totally block its privatization." The regulations would enable environmental officers to close the company's plants.

However, an official in the **Prime Minister's Office** said **Rabin** rejected **Sarid's** position and a compromise was fashioned by **Justice Minister David Libai**.

"Legally, we solved the problem, but in practice each attempt by **Harish** and **Sarid** to impose their will on **ICL**, makes it more

difficult to run the company," said the official.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat called on **Medina** to reconsider his decision. He praised **Medina** for his business leadership, calling him one of the most talented managers he has ever met.

Shohat cited **Medina's** contributions to the development of **ICL** and for fashioning the company's \$2 billion investment program, which will significantly and positively impact on the **Negev's** economy and employment.

Shohat expressed his support for moving the headquarters to **Beersheva** and said that he was sad that such a deep crisis was created by the issue, which is important for the **Negev**, and which does not affect the management of the company.

Medina's resignation will postpone **ICL's** board of directors decision on the issue of moving the offices until after the appointment of a new board of directors, which will be appointed after the company is sold.

The managers must be managed

COMMENT
NEIL COHEN

ONE of the uglier phenomena of local business during the last couple of years has been the brazen rapacity of company managers, who are often already significant, if not controlling shareholders in the companies they manage.

Despite uninspiring results, executives often award themselves generous salaries, options, or bonus packages, which are rarely if ever challenged by outside shareholders.

During the last few months, managers of mutual and provident funds have found out how much overpriced paper of questionable quality they bought over the last couple of years. As a result, some have brought a slightly more combative attitude to shareholders' meetings, to the disgruntlement of company managers - one even called the funds new-found attitude "boishevik" this week.

This week, the issue of corporate governance resurfaced with a vengeance. First it came out that **Moshe Sanbar**, chairman of **Bank Leumi** and its subsidiary **Africa Israel**, and other executives had bought apartments from the latter at a discount. While the bank said that the purchases had been properly authorized, it nonetheless called an emergency board meeting which decided to halt the granting of such benefits.

Shortly afterward, a former senior executive at the **Clal Group** made allegations of corruption and cover-up against present and former senior managers. The allegations will be heard in court, and they may well prove to be the fruit of the overproductive imagination

of an embittered ex-employee. Whatever the outcome, though, the allegations raise the issue of good corporate governance. Some of the biggest corporate failures of the last few years - **BCCI**, **Polly Peck**, **British and Commonwealth**, **Orange County** - were the result of inadequate control mechanisms and too much power being concentrated in too few hands.

There has been a significant move in the US and the UK to supervise management's performance and remuneration more closely, as shareholders, usually institutional ones, have awakened from bull market-induced complacency.

As yet, there are only the very first stirrings of such activity here. But if shareholders want good, accountable management and good returns, they will have to push a lot harder.

Taiwan, IAI to set up joint aircraft maintenance center

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - Taiwan has signed a preliminary agreement with **Israel Aircraft Industries** to set up an aircraft maintenance center, officials reported yesterday.

They said an official of Taiwan's governing **Nationalist Party** signed the memorandum of understanding for the \$222 million joint project in **Tel Aviv** in October.

The memorandum also includes a possible contract for **IAI** to convert passenger jets into cargo planes for a Taiwanese aircraft leasing company, the officials said. They said negotiations for the final signing of the deal are still under way.

Taiwan does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

The **United Daily News** daily quoted **Liu Tai-yang**, a **Nationalist Party** official in charge of the planned project, as saying that Taiwan hopes to learn skills for maintaining **F-16s**.

Taiwan purchased 150 **F-16s** from the US in 1992. The air force is expected to start taking delivery of the jets in 1996.

Taiwan has been searching for international partners to help develop its fledgling aerospace industry, which earned \$450m. in 1993.

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WORLD MARKET REPORTS

- The US Treasury's semi-annual report backing a strong US dollar led to a rise in US currency to over 100 for the first time since last August. This supported a rise in US T-bonds, though both the currency and the bonds ran into profit-taking. While the underlying tone of the T-bond market is positive, jobs data to be released today will set the short-term direction, while the longer-term trend will be determined in the strategy meetings of US fund managers.
- Wall Street continued steadily in the New Year, with interest and dividend re-investment providing underpinning. The technical position of the DJIA is not bullish, and volume must expand if the traditional January strength is to be repeated. The index will face resistance at 3920.
- The March UK long gilt future found support on the down-side at 100-02 to 100-05, and the yield spread over Germany 10yr bonds has narrowed to 222bps. The future should be able to break resistance at 101-00, and by the medium-term, 102-16. However, there is over-head supply at the top end of the gilt market, and this could limit near-term advances.
- The rally on the FT-SE 100 index that has occurred since mid-December was over-stretched, and the index is testing support at 3040. This should provide a platform for a small bounce to 3085, perhaps back to the 3100 level. We have seen buying interest in Carlton Communications (CCLM, 883p) and in BOC Group (BOCL, 708p).
- The Hong Kong equity market faces resistance at 8000 - 8040 after recovering from a sharp fall on the Sino-US dispute over intellectual property. This rebound does not look sustainable, and a test of the December lows around 7670 may be expected. The Kuala Lumpur market is trapped in a down-trending trading range and weakness to 934 and possibly 920 is in prospect. The Singapore index has breached the 2295 support level, led by US selling programmes. This probably means that the bullish technical position is abated and the index could come back to 2220.
- Gold bullion fell back after its attempt to rise above US\$382.50/oz. It is testing \$375 support, and the underlying sentiment is bearish. A breach of \$375 will indicate a down-side target of \$365. South African equities have been weak on the move in bullion, but are also affected by the Mexican crisis, which is taken as demonstrating how vulnerable emerging markets can be to volatile shifts in sentiment and capital flows. The central bank is expected to be more cautious on the liberalisation of forex controls.

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IEC workers agree to reforms

Israel Electric Corp. workers yesterday said they agree to Energy Minister **Moshe Shahal's** reforms, at the end of a successful meeting with **Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin** and **Shahal**.

Several weeks ago, the workers expressed objections to the reforms, claiming **IEC** would be unable to continue to operate unless its monopoly status is preserved. **IEC's** monopoly on runs out in March, when its 70-year franchise agreement ends.

IEC will remain one large company," union representative **Ikka Yakhin** said after the meeting. "It will remain a monopoly, similar to the water monopoly."

The ministry has agreed to give the company a short-term license for each aspect of its operations, instead of the current franchise.

The ministry's initial reform plan involved breaking up **IEC** into smaller units, to create separate companies to supply, distribute, and produce electricity.

Shahal has also proposed allowing private producers to produce 15 percent of the country's electricity.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Panel formed to coordinate Rafael transformation: Treasury Director-General **David Brodet** and his Defense Ministry counterpart **David Ivry** yesterday appointed five committees that will coordinate the transformation of **Rafael** from a government division to a company.

The committees will deal with the changes that arise from the transformation, including land leasing arrangements with the government, transfer of property and obligations previously held by the government, preserving the workers' collective agreement, and setting the early retirement conditions for employees who will not be able to be absorbed by the new company.

The government has set a deadline of June 30, for converting **Rafael** into a company.

M-Systems completes private placement: M-Systems yesterday announced the completion of a \$3.7 million private placement of 484,373 units of two shares and one warrant at \$7.68 a share.

Participating in the placement were **First Israel Fund** and three other funds managed by **BEA Associates**, **Ampal Industries**, **Anglo-American Ventures Ltd.**, and **Evergreen Capital Markets**.

Sapien shares in NY stabilize: Shares in software developer **Sapien** stabilized at around \$1 in early New York trading yesterday, following a 60% plunge to \$0.6875 on Wednesday. A single investor, rumored to be **State of Wisconsin Mutual**, dumped a block of 750,000 shares at 50 cents a share, well below the market price. Shares in **Sapien** have collapsed from a high of \$28.

Abaddin Knowledge Systems announced yesterday it will purchase the Haifa-based software protection firm Elilashim MicroComputers for \$1.44m.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (6.1.95)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.750	6.250	7.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.050	5.500	6.375
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.375	4.875
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.125	3.375	3.825
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (6.1.95)

Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Rep. Rates
U.S. dollar	3.3340	3.3810	Buy	Self
German mark	2.9970	3.0330	Buy	Self
French franc	1.9241	1.9513	Buy	Self
Japanese yen (100)	4.8846	4.7907	Buy	Self
Dutch florin	0.5388	0.5568	Buy	Self
Swiss franc	2.9841	3.0059	Buy	Self
British pound	1.7171	1.7413	Buy	Self
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2918	2.3582	Buy	Self
Italian lira (1000)	0.4022	0.4070	Buy	Self
Portuguese escudo (100)	0.4414	0.4477	Buy	Self
Belgian franc (10)	0.4807	0.4876	Buy	Self
Austrian schilling (10)	0.6307	0.6386	Buy	Self
Irish punt	2.1354	2.1655	Buy	Self
Israeli sheqel	2.2071	2.2387	Buy	Self
Israeli sheqel	0.9431	0.9550	Buy	Self
Israeli sheqel	0.9269	0.9501	Buy	Self
Israeli sheqel	2.7340	2.7726	Buy	Self
Israeli sheqel	1.8437	1.8608	Buy	Self
Israeli sheqel	3.8671	3.7189	Buy	Self
Israeli sheqel	4.8280	4.8933	Buy	Self
Israeli sheqel	2.2519	2.2508	Buy	Self

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Take the swizzle stick, but leave the mezuzah

Hoteliers and their guests don't always agree on what is souvenir hunting and what is theft, Haim Shapiro reports

YOU can take the soap and the shampoo and even the ashtray, but definitely not the mezuzah on the door to your hotel room.

While it is common knowledge that guests steal towels, there are many other items which hoteliers say guests take. These include drapes, mattress covers, carpeting and even a Bible and the mezuzah from the doorpost.

"Who would want to take a mezuzah?" wondered the hotel official who mentioned that theft. He preferred to remain anonymous. Like other hoteliers, he did not want his hotel associated with stories of pilferage, which he regarded as negative publicity.

Petty thievery is common among all hotel guests [from all countries], who think that taking a bath towel with the hotel insignia is a souvenir," says Mark Feldman of Zions Tours Jerusalem. He adds that stories about Israelis being worse than others are overblown - but does admit that hoteliers abroad complain about Israelis being loud and demanding "to the point of being obnoxious" in their expectations.

Many of us have seen well-dressed women sit at breakfast and prepare sandwiches.

But hoteliers say that nothing should leave the dining room: food, napkins or silverware.

Stories of theft abound, both within Israel and abroad. Ma'ariv reporter Ami Ettinger was on one of the first tours of Jordan for Israelis with dual nationality, even before tourists were allowed across the border on Israeli pass-

ports. The bus was stopped as it left the Amman hotel for the return to Israel. One couple had cleaned out their hotel mini-bar. The bus did not leave until they paid the bill of some \$70.

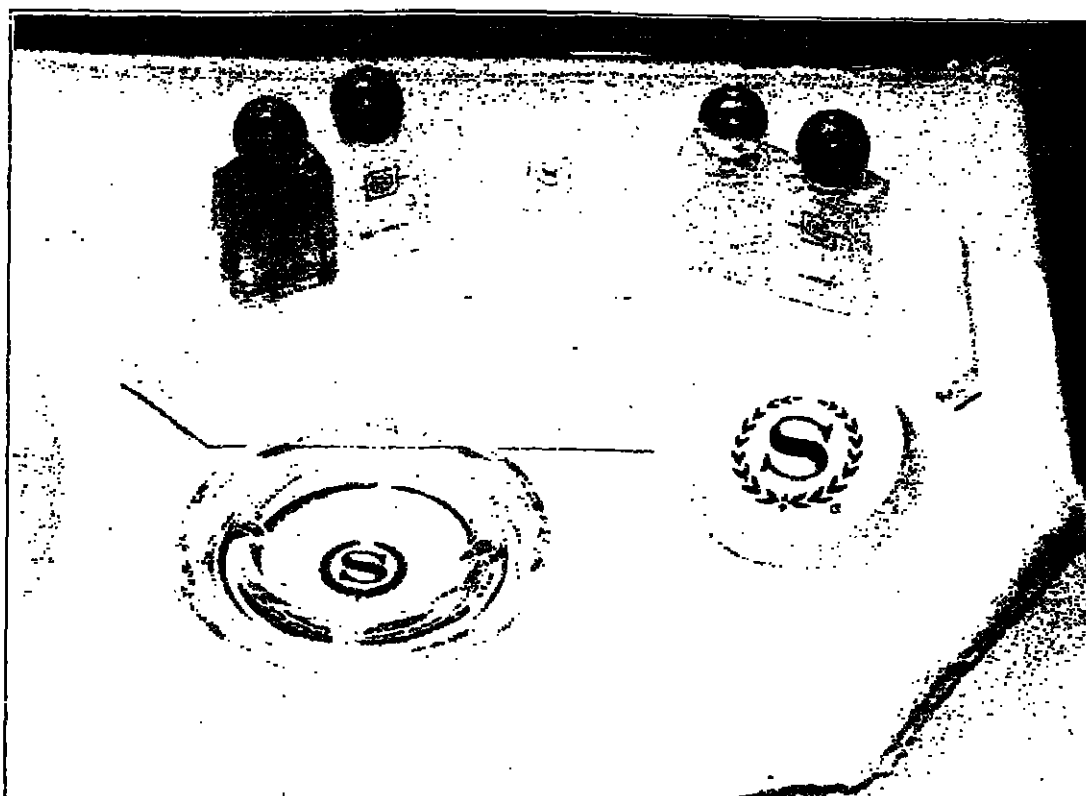
Feldman believes that some Israeli tourists innocently believe the contents of a mini-bar - especially non-alcoholic items such as candy bars - are complimentary.

In the past, the Israeli press has regularly published reports of Israelis who steal from hotels abroad. Indeed, when tourism to Jordan began, there was considerable fear that Israeli tourists would quickly, through acts of vandalism or theft, ruin relations with Jordan before they ever got off the ground.

These fears appear to have been groundless. There have been recent complaints by the Jordanian opposition about Israeli tourists, but theft was not mentioned. Instead, the complaints were that Israelis did not stay long enough, that they bought few souvenirs and bargained hard for whatever they did buy, and that they brought food with them from Israel.

However, the Israeli perception of their countrymen as tending to steal from hotels is so great that in a recent public opinion poll, carried out by Geocarography, an overwhelming majority of those questioned said that Israelis who flouted the law in hotels abroad should be punished here.

In the survey, among a representative sample of 521 adult Israeli Jews, 64 percent believed



Guests are expected to take shampoo and bubble bath, as well as complimentary fruit, but they should leave the fruit basket, a local hotel manager says.

that Israelis who stole from hotels abroad or left a hotel without paying should be fined here: 38 percent believed that such a fine should be over NIS 1,000; 18 percent believed culprits should serve prison sentences here.

Avi Rosenthal, director of the

Israel Hotel Association, says that Israelis seem to be getting better about not taking things from hotels. He bases his judgment on the fact that locals account for 40 percent of domestic hotel occupancy, and that complaints about thefts have dropped

in recent years.

"It was fashionable for Israelis to take things from hotels in the past, but I am sure that things are better today," says Rosenthal, who believes that hotel guests are now better educated and more sophisticated.

"In the past three to five years, we've had hardly any complaints about thefts from hotels," he says.

According to the institute, those in lower socio-economic brackets tended to be much harsher in their views on this matter than those in the higher social and economic brackets. One reason might be that those with less money have had fewer opportunities to stay in hotels and are unfamiliar with the genuine dilemma many guests feel as to what they may or may not take.

Rico Rosenthal, general manager of the Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem, differentiates between guests who take things which they regard as souvenirs, and outright stealing.

Rosenthal says the hotel expects guests to take amenities such as shampoo, bubble bath, soap, shower cap and sewing kit. He says the hotel even expects guests to take home ashtrays and pens and pads which have the hotel name on them. This is a form of advertising, he says.

He says that guests in good conscience may take anything that is specifically given to them compliments of the management, such as bottles of wine, chocolates or fruit from a fruit basket.

However, he adds, guests should not take the basket itself.

The problem becomes even more complex when one stays in a super-deluxe hotel, or in the VIP section of a five-star hotel, where it is often customary for

management to put out large bottles of expensive cosmetics for their guests. In some hotels, it is customary to put out a card "hinting" that the amenities may be acquired at the hotel shop.

The Tel Aviv Sheraton Hotel, says spokeswoman Wendy Geri, does not really have a problem with pilferage. The hotel does not actually expect guests to take away the amenities, such as shampoo, conditioner and body lotion, but they are replenished every day. Other items, including pens, matches, throw-away slippers and cocktail swizzle sticks, are regarded by the hotel as souvenirs, for the guest to take home, Geri says.

The Tel Aviv Sheraton provides guests with bathrobes that come with a decorative band explaining that the robe may be purchased by calling the housekeeping department.

Some deluxe rooms have large decorative bottles of luxury Dead Sea cosmetics. "We expect guests to use them while they are in the hotel," Geri says, adding that although there is no note or card indicating that these cosmetics are not to be taken away, guests, as a rule, do not take them.

Rosenthal, of the Renaissance, is unwilling to single out Israelis or any other group as prime offenders, but he says that there is one exemplary type of tourist: groups of Christian pilgrims, who take absolutely nothing from the hotel rooms. They are extraordinarily honest, says Rosenthal.

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LET'S say you have decided that you want to invest in the stock market, and have enough money to invest that it makes sense to do it through a broker rather than via mutual funds. (With smaller sums you can't achieve the necessary diversification of risk through your own portfolio, while with a mutual fund - a pool of lots of smaller sums - you can.) You feel you don't have the necessary expertise to make the investment decisions yourself. So you want a broker or money manager. How do you find one?

It's not so easy, especially in this country. Although there is a bill crawling through the Knesset which will regulate investment advisers, the industry is largely unregulated and, following the great bull market of 1988-1993, a lot of people entered the investment industry, some of whom just do not have the tools to manage money responsibly, while others are best described as cowboys.

Rule 1. Don't rely on anyone else to look out for your interests except yourself. It's your money, your financial future; your broker's interests may not be exactly the same as yours.

Rule 2. Shop around. Even if you hear that someone is really good, interview a number of other people. Get a feel of what they're about. Look for someone who is compatible with your personality and risk tolerance. If a broker doesn't answer your questions directly, or intimidates you with lots of industry jargon, find someone else.

Rule 3. Check the guy out. How old is he? How long has he been in business? What qualifications does he have? How much money does he manage? How many clients does he have? How much money does the average client have with him? (If it's much more than you're thinking of, you may be a small fish for him and will not get much attention.) How long does he hold the average investment (is he a long-term investor or a short-term trader)? What kind of stocks does he like? Why? Ask for examples of other clients' portfolios. If they are full of speculative stocks and you want a safe portfolio, he may not be right for you. How has he done over the past few years? Has he been through a down market? If so, how did he do? "Wait a minute," you say. "Anyone I hit with such a barrage of questions will probably

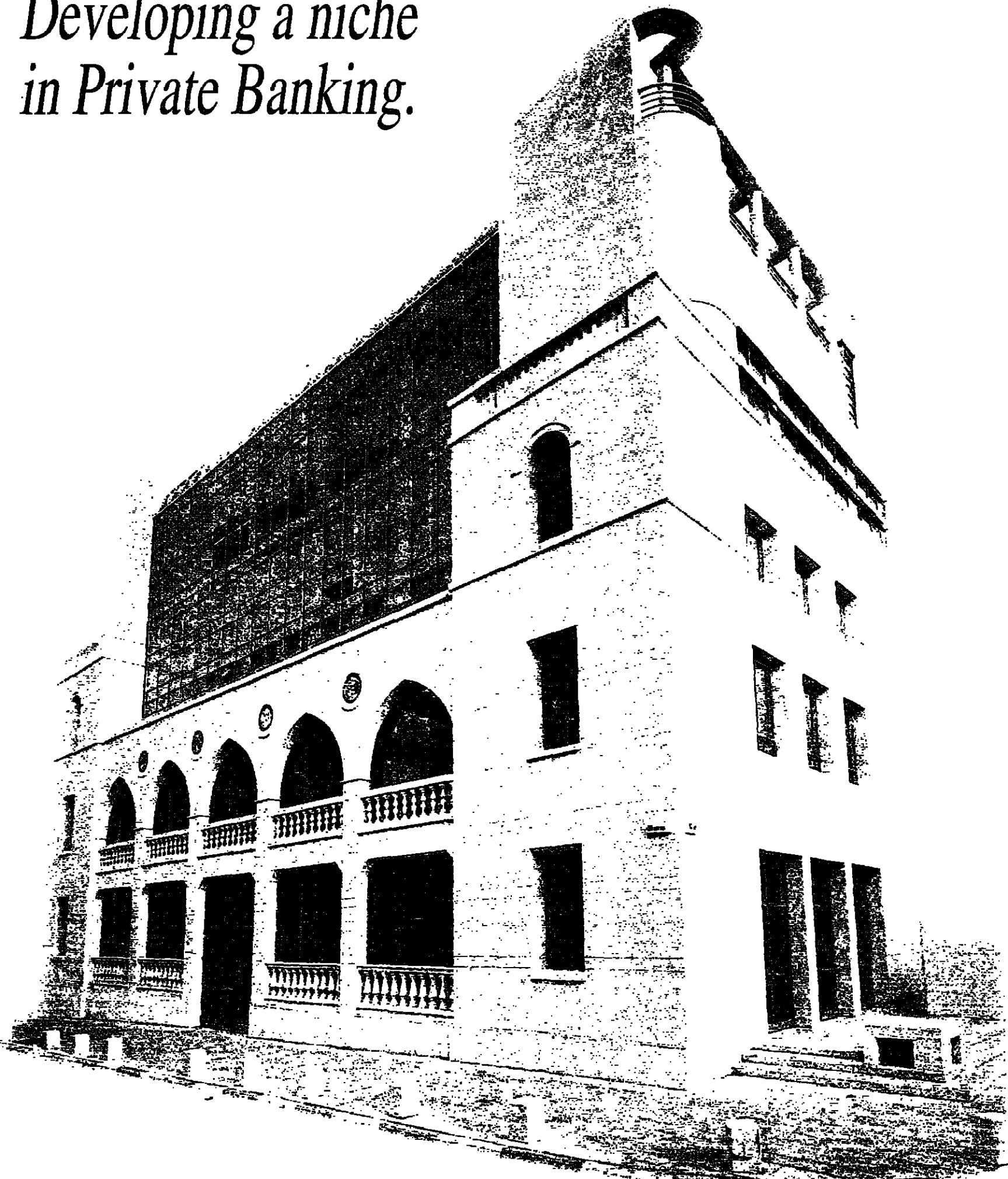
throw me out." But it's your money and it might be a big sum - probably the biggest investment you ever made after your home. Didn't you have the apartment checked out thoroughly to see if there was rot or damp? This is no different. If anything, you need to be more careful, since an apartment isn't likely to disappear, but money mismanaged easily can. It's also important that you establish from the very beginning who's in control (you) and how the relationship is going to work.

Rule 4. Find out how your broker is going to be remunerated. Are you going to pay him a percentage of the money you have with him? That will make him want the money to grow, but it might encourage him to take undue risks. Or is he going to get a share of commissions your account generates? This might incline him to trade heavily (a not uncommon phenomenon in this country). Find out what other charges, like custody fees, will be levied.

Rule 5. Establish, preferably in writing and before you start, the amount of discretion your broker will have. Does he need your approval before each transaction or will he have freedom to manage the account as he pleases and just send you a monthly statement? Remember that your broker may be affiliated to a firm that underwrites stock offerings or sells mutual funds. It's not unknown for brokers to "stuff" unsold stock from undersubscribed offerings underwritten by an affiliate into the accounts of unwitting clients.

Rule 6. If things are going wrong, or don't seem right, don't be afraid to start shouting, see a lawyer or pull the plug. As far as I can tell, the average broker response to client disquiet is to make excuses. At the same time, bear in mind that your investment will not go up in a straight line. Even blue-chip stocks can give a bumpy ride.

Rule 7. Remember that every broker wants new clients and most will say what they think the client wants to hear. Six months down the road you may find that you are down 30 percent and that it takes several days for your smooth-talking broker to return your calls. There are no guarantees, but until you're really satisfied that you've done your homework, and you have an agreement in writing that a lawyer has looked at, your money is safer in the bank.



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STAR AU PAIR INTERNATIONAL offers jobs for foreigners immediately. Tel Aviv, England, New York, Minimum \$950 monthly. 03-201185, 02-452002.

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"SITTERTAF" seeks metaploet/housekeepers, preferably Ethiopians, live-in. Tel. 03-5105740, 03-6100836.

The "BIG AGENCY" this month is inviting 35-45 lucky Filipinos to work as caregivers. If you are interested in inviting a relative for the best job with very good conditions, call us. 03-54441779, 03-5441488, 07-712827.

LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER needed Ramat Etl. 03-534034, 03-6864226.

FIJIAN FEMALE needed for family or elderly woman. + Fijian male needed, good conditions urgent. 03-5756898.

SECRETARY, HEBREW/ENGLISH typing, interesting + permanent position, Tel Aviv area. 03-5286111/2.

LIVE-IN AU PAIR, housework mainly, recommendations required, part-time work possible. Tel. 03-5218878.

PHILIPINITE NEEDED, up to age 30, for cleaning and cooking, live-in, \$800. Tel. 03-5498784.

WOMAN OR COUPLE for housework and cooking, live-in, in Savoyon. 03-5343319, 03-6351242.

HIGH SALARY!!! And good conditions for pleasant au pair, live-in. 03-5223689, 03-988484.

AU PAIR, LIVE-IN, HOUSEKEEPING, cooking, childcare. 03-6341850 after 5 pm.

MOTHERLY AU PAIR, for baby care + housecleaning, live-in. 03-5750226, Sun-Thurs, mornings.

LIVE-IN EXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPER, Ramat Gan, driving license. Good conditions for right candidate. 03-7516788.

HOUSEKEEPER, DAILY, cleaning, cooking, laundry, big children, warm family. 03-6815868.

AU PAIR, English speaking, live-out, full day. 03-6818048.

AU PAIR to care for two year old boy + housekeeping. 03-6482528.

SALES PERSONNEL

KARL LAGERFELD BOUTIQUE in T.A. seeks saleswoman with experience and attractive appearance. 03-5248346.

GENERAL

GOOD INCOME, fast-time, great potential. 03-5772118, 24 hours. 03-5248346.

PURCHASE/SALE

FOR SALE

CANON PLAIN PAPER FAX + Pioneer radiotele with detachable face. New, bargain. Tel. 03-293450.

PERSONALS

VERY ATTRACTIVE, cultured (57), loves life and good company, interested in genuine friend for life, quality and cultured, up to 67, PO BOX 11302, Tel Aviv, 61116. 03-5248346.

PERSONAL

SHY MAN (28, 175 cm), Jewish Canadian tourist interested in meeting Israeli woman 23-30 for relationship. P.O.B. 6369 Ramat Gan 52183.

DAN REGION

BUSINESS OFFERS

INVESTMENT

INVESTORS WANTED: franchise schools, exclusive method for teaching English as a second language. 02-618503.

BUS. PREMISES

LUXURIOUS OFFICES FOR RENT, 200 sq.m. units - 2500 sq.m., Itam Real Estate 03-5996711.

SITS. VAC.

OFFICE STAFF

BILINGUAL SECRETARY, English/Hebrew, typing knowledge, for challenging work, good conditions. 03-5938719.

HOUSEHOLD HELP

AU PAIR, live-out, childcare + housekeeping, flexible days. 03-497815 (Shelly).

SHARON AREA

DWELLINGS

CHOICE VILLAS AND PENTHOUSES for sale/rent in Herzliya Pituah, Kfar Shmaryahu, and Tel Aviv. Itam Real Estate, 03-5996711.

NETANYA, Ramat Poleg, new penthouse, 200sqm, 5 rooms + balconies. Fantastic view, 9th floor. For sale or long-term rental. 03-5287485.

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RA'ANANA, 3 bedroom apartment, fitted closets/carpets, parking, lift, Dbl. WC. Tel. 03-912635.

HERZLIYA PITUACH 2 & 4 room apartments + villas. Short/long-term rentals. Fully equipped. 03-5468820.

KFAR SHMARYAHU & HERZLIYA PITUACH: large selection of beautiful villas. Shashua Malden, 03-570878 Malden.

NETANYA, 4, 1st floor, front, unfurnished, parking, 03-528160, NS, no agents.

HERZLIYA PITUACH, 3-bedroom furnished apartment, balcony, very quiet, garden. Tel. 03-570433 (agent).

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SALES

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Australia retains Ashes with draw in third Test

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Australia held on for a draw in the third Test yesterday and retained the Ashes — but not before England pace bowler Angus Fraser set up a thrilling finish.

Fraser, who only joined the England team as a replacement, took four wickets in just 13 deliveries as Australia slipped to the brink of a stunning defeat.

A combination of steadily-worsening light and stubborn tail-end resistance from Shane Warne and Tim May saw Australia hold out.

After being in control at 239 for one after centuries from openers Michael Slater and Mark Taylor, Australia crashed to 292 for seven before Warne and May stepped in.

They joined forces when 19.1 overs remained — and survived unscathed as Australia finished at 344 for seven.

With the light threatening an abandonment, England captain Mike Atherton was forced to remove Fraser and Darren Gough from the attack and rely on spinners Phil Tufnell and Graeme Hick when 12 overs remained.

The match was dramatic to the end.

First Warne was dropped at mid-off by Devon Malcolm off what was apparently the last ball of the match.

The two batsmen, England's fielders and both umpires, thought the contest had ended and were making their way off the field. But there was still time for an extra over from Tufnell, which May successfully negotiated after everyone trooped back to their positions.

The result was sufficient to preserve Australia's 2-0 series lead and guarantee the Ashes will stay Down Under until at least 1997.

Warne and May were together for 77 minutes to ensure Australia kept the Ashes retained by Allan Border's side in 1993.

Warne finished on 36 and May 10. The pair shared an unbeaten stand of 52.

The centuries by Taylor (113) and Slater (103) had given Australia hope in the first Test of achieving a record 4-0-0 for victory.

Rain during and after lunch, which took 40 minutes and seven overs off the day's play, made Australia reassess, especially when Slater fell in Fraser's first over on resumption.

David Boon and Taylor added just 31 in 80 minutes for the second wicket before Taylor was



SHORT-LIVED JOY — England bowler Angus Fraser runs down the wicket after having Australia's Ian Healy caught by Steve Rhodes for five, during the Test in Sydney yesterday (AP)

bowed by Malcolm.

Boon was caught at slip off Darren Gough for 17 in 107 minutes and then Fraser started his stunning spell.

He had Michael Bevan, out of form, out of the Australian World Series team and probably gone for the next Test, caught by Steve Rhodes for seven.

Mark Waugh went leg before wicket and three balls later his brother Steve snicked another catch for Rhodes.

Fraser then removed the last line of resistance before the tail, dismissing the usually resolute Ian Healy for five.

Fraser's seven-over 4-19 spell left him with figures of 5-73.

Australia's total was the highest fourth innings score recorded at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Only two teams in 1,277 Test matches have exceeded 400 in the last innings to win. Bishen Bedi's Indian team scored 406-4 against the West Indies in Port of Spain,

Trinidad, in 1975-76 and Sir Donald Bradman's Australians made 404-3 against England at Headingley in 1948.

The draw followed Australia's wins by 184 and 295 runs in Brisbane and Melbourne.

England, 1st innings 309	
England, 2nd innings 252-2 decl.	
Australia 1st innings 116	
Australia 2nd innings (overnight 136-0)	
M. Taylor b Malcolm	113
M. Slater c Tufnell b Fraser	103
D. Boon c Hick b Gough	17
M. Waugh b Fraser	25
M. Bevan c Rhodes b Fraser	7
S. Waugh c Rhodes b Fraser	0
T. May c Rhodes b Fraser	10
S. Rhodes not out	36
S. Waugh not out	10
Extras (b-12, lb-3, w-1, nb-12)	28
Total (for seven wickets)	344
Fall of wickets: 200, 239, 285, 292, 295, 298, 299	
Did not bat: C.McDermott, D.Fleming	
Bowling: Malcolm 21-4-75-1 (nb), Gough 28-4-72-1 (w), Fraser 25-3-73-5 (5b), Tufnell 25-4-81-0 (5b), Hick 5-0-21-0, Gough 7-1-27-0	
Result: Match drawn.	
Australia lead the series 2-0.	
Fourth Test, Adelaide, January 29-30.	
Fifth Test, Perth, February 3-7.	

Maccabi gains expected win over hapless Benfica Lisbon

First road victory boosts Tel Aviv's mark to 4-3 in Europe

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv ran its record to 4-3 in the European Club Championship final pool last night, beating Portugal's Benfica 90-81 in Lisbon.

However, the nine-point win was not all that impressive, achieved against one of the weaker teams in the contest.

Their only real assets are the shooting of veteran Carlos Lisboa and the enthusiastic, unorthodox play of Angolan international Jean Jacques.

Benfica fell to 0-7 with the loss. Maccabi, which picked up its first road win of the championship, played the first half at a snail's pace.

The team was badly hampered by the failure of Goodes to set the tone on offense and Doron Jamchee's inability to score — sink-

ing only four points in the half.

The player who kept Maccabi in the picture was Norris Coleman, slamming in 18 first-half points and managing to keep on the offensive, despite a noticeable lack of help from Radisav Curcic under the boards.

When coach Muli Kazurin replaced Jamchee with Monty Daniel and Goodes with Yisrael Elimelech, Maccabi jumped to a seven-point lead.

The Portuguese, spurred on by Lisboa's accurate sniping and a couple of speedy fastbreaks by Luis Silva, then took the initiative and trimmed the advantage to 32-28.

Maccabi then replied with some more inspired play by Cole-

man, with help from some teamwork, to up the margin to 37-28.

Then the 36-year-old Lisboa showed why he is one of the most feared marksmen in European basketball. Hardly pausing to take aim, he slung in three three-pointers in succession, and tied the score at 37-37.

The Portuguese even took a 42-41 lead into the locker room.

But Maccabi dominated the second half.

Benfica failed to control the offensive boards, which had brought them a number of first-half points. And Lisboa apparently packed his shooting arm away for the night.

That left the efforts of Jean Jacques, whose tireless work was

not enough. Jamchee replaced Coleman as Maccabi's main man and had 17 second-half points.

The rest of the squad plugged away and proved they were better than Benfica, which is, to tell the sad truth, not much of an accomplishment.

If the outing last night was a practice, Maccabi needs it badly. Next week the Israeli champions face POAK Saloniki in Greece, and a win in that unfriendly climate will do wonders for the chances of making the Final Four.

For Maccabi, Coleman scored 24 and Jamchee 21.

Lisboa was Benfica's top scorer with 22, followed by Jean Jacques with 19 and Pedro Miguel with 14.

Kfar Sava, Jaffa take 2nd Division spotlight

DEREK FATTAL

ATTENTION this weekend turns to soccer action in the Second Division, as the National League is taking a winter break until the end of the month.

The runaway leader after 13 rounds in the lower flight is Maccabi Jaffa, which looks well poised to win promotion at the end of the season.

Tomorrow, the leader is pitted against the division's top scoring side, Hapoel Kfar Sava. The Sharon side lies nine points adrift of its host, and must win to retain any realistic hope of winning the league.

Second-placed Hapoel Ashdod plays lowly newcomer to the division, Hapoel Kiryat Shmona, and has an ideal opportunity of closing Jaffa's eight-point advantage.

Other weekend fixtures: Ness Ziona vs Hapoel Ramat Gan, Hapoel Hadera vs Hapoel Lod, Hapoel Kiryat Gat vs Hapoel Jerusalem, Hakoah Ramat Gan vs Hapoel Taibe, and Maccabi Yavne vs Hapoel Bat Yam.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Knicks beat Hawks, stall Wilkens' record

PATRICK Ewing scored 21 points and the New York Knicks held the Atlanta Hawks without a field goal for the final seven minutes in an 89-80 win on Wednesday that again denied Lenny Wilkens his record 939th career coaching victory. Derek Harper scored 20 points and Charles Smith added 16 for the Knicks, who have won four straight since a season-high five-game losing streak.

In Cleveland, Gary Payton scored 32 points, hitting a team record 14-of-14 field goals, as the Seattle SuperSonics snapped the Cavaliers' team record-tying 11-game winning streak, 116-85.

In other action, Orlando remained perfect at home (14-0) with a 113-110 victory over New Jersey, hosts Boston defeated the Miami Heat 117-113, Phoenix beat visiting Philadelphia 127-122, hosts Charlotte routed Portland 118-106, Chicago defeated the visiting Denver Nuggets 86-80 and hosts Indiana handed the Washington Bullets their fifth straight loss, 94-90.

REUTERS

Retrial for man who stabbed Monica Seles

THE unemployed lathe operator sentenced to probation for stabbing Monica Seles in the back during a tennis match will be retried starting March 21, a German court said yesterday.

Considering the sentence too lenient, Hamburg prosecutors decided to bring the case to trial again before a higher court, their right under German law.

Seles, 21, was the world's top-ranked woman tennis player at the time of the April 30, 1993, attack and has not competed since. In October 1993, a local Hamburg court convicted Guenter Parche of causing grievous bodily injury and issued the sentence simultaneously, as is customary in Germany.

Parche could have been sentenced to five years in prison but instead was put on two years probation on the grounds he had diminished ability to distinguish right from wrong. The prosecutor had sought a 33-month jail sentence.

REUTERS

Jets fire Carroll, name Kotite head coach

THE New York Jets fired head coach Pete Carroll and replaced him with recently-sacked Philadelphia Eagles coach Rich Kotite, the club announced yesterday.

Kotite, who was fired by the Eagles at the end of the regular season, is the second head coach for the Jets in the past two seasons. Carroll took over last season after Bruce Coslet was fired. The 52-year-old Kotite, a New York native and former Jets assistant coach, agreed to a three-year deal.

The Jets, who won their only Super Bowl in 1969, have not had a winning season since 1988. The Jets were just 6-10 in their first season under Carroll after losing their last five games. Carroll's fate may have been sealed in November when the Jets, with a chance to grab a share of first place in the AFC East, blew an 18-point second-half lead against Miami and lost 28-24 — a defeat from which they never seemed to recover. Kotite, who posted a 36-28 record in four seasons as head coach, suffered a similar fall from grace with the Eagles.

REUTERS

Sam Wyche to return as Buccaneers' coach

THE Tampa Bay Buccaneers gave Sam Wyche a 50th birthday present yesterday when they announced he will return as the team's head coach next season despite posting his third consecutive losing campaign.

REUTERS

Lions grant Fontes contract extension

DETROIT Lions fans anxious to dump coach Wayne Fontes could have a long wait. Fontes, who had one year remaining on his contract, has been given a two-year extension by club owner William Clay Ford. That will bind Fontes to the Lions through the 1997 season. Green Bay defeated Detroit 16-12 last Saturday in an NFC wild card playoff game to end the Lions season.

AP

Yomiuri Giants sign Shane Mack

IN Japan, \$8.1 million is a lot to pay for a two-year baseball contract — a record, in fact. But the Yomiuri Giants aren't saying they paid too much for outfielder Shane Mack. The deal was signed Wednesday in Minnesota, where Mack, 31, hit .333 with 15 homers and 61 RBIs in 303 at-bats with the Twins.

AP

An American Institute is seeking a SECRETARY

Duties include managing paper flow, drafting, typing, receiving and screening telephone calls and other administrative tasks. Candidates must have secondary education, fluent Arabic and English (written and spoken) and must read and speak Hebrew. Excellent organizational skills, word processing and computer fluency are essential. Two years' professional experience as secretary essential.

Send your applications to: KL, P.O. Box 290, Jerusalem 91002, with a post office date stamp no later than January 13, 1995.

The Alexander Muss High School in Israel requires TEACHERS

for individual tuition:

Math, Science, Foreign Languages and Social Studies: American and European History, Economy.

Afternoon hours and Friday mornings

Minimum B.A. or B.S. Experience and fluent English required.

Contact: Jill Segal, 09-405705

Clinton ready to help settle baseball strike

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is concerned about a lack of progress toward ending the baseball strike and wants to "bring whatever kind of influence he can" to move things along, his chief of staff said yesterday.

"He's very concerned that this is an issue that needs to be resolved, and resolved for the American people and those that are interested in the sport," Leon Panetta said.

"And he's going to try to bring whatever kind of influence he can bring in order to see if we can't drive that in the right direction." He did not elaborate on what Clinton might do.

On October 14, the president appointed WJ Utery as a special mediator.

Meanwhile, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan introduced a bill on Wednesday to repeal baseball's antitrust exemption.

Moynihan said the 1922 antitrust exemption, unique in American sports, allows the owners to act as a cartel.

AP

NFL DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

(all times local)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m. (Sports Channel broadcast at 12 midnight with repeats at 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.) Sunday Chicago at San Francisco, 11:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Green Bay at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. (Sports Channel broadcast at 12 midnight with repeats at 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.) Monday Miami at San Diego, 11:00 p.m.

* Chicago-San Francisco game may be broadcast instead.

TODAY ON CABLE TV

CHANNEL 5

9:30 Brazilian league soccer 10:30 Basketball 12:00 Argentinean league soccer 13:30 Spanish league soccer 15:00 WWF 16:00 Bushido 17:00 Israeli basketball magazine 17:30 Mundial 18:00 Siding in Italy 19:00 NFL playoffs (repeat) 20:00 Bushido 20:30 European basketball 22:00 European soccer magazine 23:00 Premier League: Tottenham v Arsenal

EUROSPORT

9:30 Motor racing 10:00 Leisure sports 10:30 Snow board 11:00 Adventure 12:00 Motor racing 12:30 Live men's alpine slalom 14:00 Live ski jumping 16:30 Men's alpine slalom 17:00 Live international soccer from Saudi Arabia, opening game 18:00 Live international soccer from Saudi Arabia, game two 21:00 Eurosport news 21:30 Figure skating 22:30 Motor racing 23:00 Ski jumping 00:00 Tennis from Australia 2:00 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORT

6:00 Cricket from India 7:00 Rugby 8:00 Show Jumping 9:00 International motor racing magazine 10:00 Cricket from India 11:00 WWF 12:00 Asian soccer show 13:00 Motor racing 13:30 NBA behind the scenes 14:00 NBA: San Antonio v Utah 16:00 Boxing 18:00 Sniffing Magazine 19:00 Soccer magazine 19:00 Soccer 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Basketball: Connecticut v Villanova 21:30 Mundial 21:50 Live Spanish league soccer: Real Madrid v Barcelona 00:00 NFL Playoffs — Browns-Steelers

SATURDAY JANUARY 7

CHANNEL 5

8:30 Table tennis 9:30 WWF 12:15 European soccer magazine 13:10 European basketball 14:30 Handball 15:00 Premier League soccer 16:00 Mundial 17:00 Spanish league soccer 18:00 European soccer magazine 19:00 Soccer in Italy 19:30 Israeli basketball magazine 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Basketball: Connecticut v Villanova 21:30 Mundial 21:50 Live Spanish league soccer: Real Madrid v Barcelona 00:00 NFL Playoffs — Browns-Steelers

EUROSPORT

9:30 Motor racing 11:00 Ski jumping 12:00 Alpine slalom 12:30 Live alpine slalom 14:30 International soccer 15:30 Cross country slalom 17:30 Figure skating 19:00 Alpine slalom 20:00 WWF 21:30 Motor racing 21:50 Live supercross racing from Germany 22:30 Boxing 00:20 Tennis from Australia 2:00 Snooker

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Live tennis from Australia 8:00 Asian soccer show 10:00 International motor racing magazine 11:00 Table tennis 13:00 European soccer show 14:00 WWF 15:00 Tennis from Australia 16:00 Cricket from India 19:00 Tennis from Australia 22:00 International soccer magazine 23:00 European soccer show 00:00 Table tennis 2:00 WWF

NHL owners to vote tomorrow on latest players proposal

NEW YORK (AP) — The fate of the North American ice hockey season likely will be settled tomorrow.

"We should know where we are and where we are going," Boston Bruins general manager Harry Sinden said. "I am pretty certain that this is it, but you never know. Maybe they have another offer."

On Wednesday, with time running out to save the season, the

National Hockey League Players Association made another proposal to the league. And the NHL's Board of Governors will vote on the offer tomorrow in New York.

An AP source close to the negotiations said the proposal addresses the issues of free agency and salary arbitration, but makes no concessions on the contentious luxury tax, the sticking point in the more than three-

month lockout.

If NHL commissioner Gary Bettman finds the proposal acceptable, 14 of the 26 teams must vote to approve. If Bettman does not give his OK, he can be overruled by a vote of 20 teams.

A vote to accept by the Board of Governors would mean a 50-game season would open January 16. A vote to reject would not necessarily doom the season, leaving a remote chance for fur-

ther negotiations.

The union proposes that if a player wins an arbitration case, the team doesn't have to honor it, but if the player loses he can sign with another team. Should he not catch on with a club, his original team would retain his rights by offering him a 15 percent increase over his previous contract.

The proposal is also said to contain innovative measures regarding rising salaries.

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HEALTH INSURANCE LAW

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CHARTER OF THE INSURED PERSON'S RIGHTS

In accordance with the
National Health Insurance Law

a. The National Health Insurance Law is founded upon principles of justice, equality and mutual assistance.

b. The Law lays down the State's responsibility to finance the provision of health services for all residents of the State within the framework of the basket of health services.

c. The Law lays down an obligatory basket of health services which the resident shall receive unconditionally from the sick fund.

d. The health services included in the basket of services shall be provided according to medical considerations, at a reasonable quality, within a reasonable time and at a reasonable distance from the insured's place of residence.

e. Every resident may choose any sick fund and is entitled to register with it without limitations as to age or medical condition. A member of a sick fund may choose a physician and a service-provider from among those connected with the sick fund.

f. All health insurance premiums collected from residents will be used for health purposes only and not for any other purpose.

g. Every resident may peruse the articles of the sick fund and receive a copy thereof.

h. Every resident may inspect the financial statements of the sick fund of which he is a member and the fund is obligated to publish the said statements.

i. An insured who thinks his rights have been infringed or who has been mistreated by an employee of the sick fund or an employee acting on its behalf may file a complaint with one of the following bodies:
- the official of the sick fund responsible for investigating complaints filed by members;
- the Ombudsman at the Ministry of Health;
- the Labor Court.

A sick fund may not limit or deny the right of a member or any other person to appeal its decisions in court.

j. An employer may not make employment contingent on membership in a particular sick fund.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR EVERY RESIDENT

The National Health Insurance Law guarantees equal medical care to all the residents of Israel and accords all sick funds equal status.

Every resident of Israel is insured for health care by virtue of the law.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE BETWEEN THE SICK FUNDS

Every resident is entitled to select any sick fund regardless of his/her age or medical condition, and to receive from it the full basket of medical services.

What should you do?

Anyone already a member of a sick fund is not required to re-register (if you are a member of more than one sick fund you will be considered to be registered with the sick fund with which you last registered). In exceptional cases when a resident requires urgent medical treatment and is not registered with a sick fund, he/she will be entitled to medical services from a sick fund determined by the Director-General of the Ministry of Health.

If you are not a member of any sick fund

A resident who has not been registered previously with a sick fund shall be registered with a sick fund determined by the Minister of Health. After a period of six months he/she will be able to transfer according to the regular procedures.

Couples and Children

Married couples may register with different sick funds. Children under the age of 18 will be registered with the sick fund of the parents. If the parents are insured in different funds, children born after the Law comes into force will be registered with the fund of the parent receiving child benefits.

from the National Insurance Institute, unless the parents have stated otherwise on the sick fund registration form. Children registered with a sick fund prior to the Law coming into force will continue to be registered with the same fund.

When is it possible to transfer to another sick fund?

Anyone registered with a sick fund for at least one year, is entitled to transfer to another sick fund.

A request for transfer may be submitted at any time, but the transfer will only come into effect once every six months. A resident who files a request for transfer by 30th September of each year, will be registered with the fund to which he wishes to be transferred as from the following January 1. A resident who files a request for transfer by March 31st, will be registered with the fund to which he wishes to be transferred as from the following July 1.

YOUR BASKET OF HEALTH SERVICES IS GUARANTEED IN LAW

The health care basket comprises a range of essential medical services which each sick fund is required to provide, unconditionally, to all its insured. The basket includes:

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- And the "law report": Asher Felix Landau's unique review of court cases in the news.

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ON WEDNESDAYS:

- The Middle East page brings you an Arab news digest, articles on and by Israel's neighbors.
- The Post's "agony aunt" Ruth Blum answers readers' questions.
- Intelligence experts Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg give you inside stories of international intrigue.

Nigerian police hold seven in connection with killing of Shira Arnon

NIGERIAN police announced yesterday they had arrested seven people suspected of involvement in the attack Tuesday in which Shira Arnon, wife of an Israeli Embassy employee, was stabbed to death.

Arnon, 23, was buried yesterday in Kibbutz Sde Eliahu, where she grew up.

The attack occurred after the car in which she, her husband David - an embassy security officer - and two Finnish diplomats were driving broke down in southern Nigeria, some 200 km. from Lagos.

Police said at least two men in another car drove up and offered aid to the stranded travelers before attacking them.

David Arnon had gone to the nearest town to find a mechanic, and was not present when the car was attacked. The two Finns were seriously wounded.

Police said the three victims struggled with the attackers, who fled when another car approached. Nothing was stolen during the incident.

Shira Arnon is survived by her husband and her parents, Miriam and Mano Tropper. (Itim)

Gifted Pupils Only

At the beginning of the 5756 studies year, a yeshiva will be opened at which studies will be in accordance with the system of Rabbi Haim Lileitz of Sadrat Enosh who will supervise studies. Pupils aged 13 and over may apply, for entry in the opening year. The number of places still available is limited.

For Details: 02-783385



Outgoing Jordanian premier Abdul-Salam Majali. (Reuters)

Majali quits; king's cousin to be Jordan's new premier

News agencies

AMMAN - Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali submitted his cabinet's resignation yesterday after an eventful 19-month tenure that produced a peace treaty with Israel and muzzled Moslem fundamentalists at home.

Jordan said yesterday its next prime minister would be former army commander Sharif Zaid Bin Shaker, a cousin and confidant of King Hussein, who had served two previous terms as head of government.

The announcement on state media came a few hours after Majali presented his government's resignation.

Bin Shaker, 60, currently Hussein's chief adviser, enjoys wide popularity among Jordanians.

The sources said Bin Shaker's cabinet might not be formed until after a visit by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who arrives today.

In the meantime, Majali's 31-member government will serve as a caretaker.

The resignation had been expected after the cabinet completed negotiating a peace treaty with Israel, enforcing economic reforms, and stifling Moslem fundamentalists opposing the kingdom's largely pro-Western policies.

Majali, 69, was Jordan's chief negotiator when the Madrid talks were launched in 1991. He was made premier in May 1993.

Local experts: Unclear when Iran will become nuclear power

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

SENIOR officials yesterday attempted to qualify a New York Times report that Iran might be less than five years away from having an atomic bomb, much closer than previously thought.

They said it is unclear where Iran's nuclear program is headed or how soon Teheran will possess a nuclear capability, but stressed Iran is still very much interested in acquiring such capability.

The officials said the issue of Iran's strategy in the Gulf and its nuclear program will be discussed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with US Secretary of Defense William Perry, scheduled to arrive here on Sunday.

According to the Times story, Israeli officials consider Iran's nuclear potential to be the most serious threat facing the country. If the program is not halted, senior officials said

they would be forced to consider attacking Iran's nuclear reactors.

Last week OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan said in a Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies seminar that Israel must devise a strategy to confront Iran's strategic aspirations, including its nuclear capability.

"If the Iranians maintain this intensive effort to get everything they need, they could have all their components in two years. Then it will be just a matter of technology and research," said an official quoted by the Times.

So far, Iran has amassed nuclear material and some equipment, but has not - as the North Koreans did - built a weapons-grade

nuclear reactor. Defense officials here said yesterday that two Chinese-made 300-megawatt reactors have not been constructed as planned, but that Iran has more than a rudimentary infrastructure to produce a primitive, Hiroshima-like nuclear device. However, they said a delivery system may take longer to acquire.

Reza Amrollahi, the president of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, has repeatedly denied that Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons. But other Iranian leaders have often said Islamic countries must acquire nuclear weapons to counter American and Israeli arsenals.

Outgoing CIA director James Woolsey estimated in US Senate testimony last year that Iran is spending over \$1 billion a year for its nuclear program.

Histadrut says Palestinian labor activist's arrest was politically motivated

JON IMMANUEL and MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE director of a Palestinian workers' rights center was released yesterday, a day after he was arrested following accusations by Israeli employers he was inciting workers.

Hassan Barghouti, of the Ramallah-based Democracy and Workers Rights Center, denied the charges. He said he established his organization in 1993, because the peace process requires educating workers about legal and democratic ways of demanding their rights from Israelis.

He said his organization has negotiated successfully with employers who avoided paying the minimum wage, giving paid holidays, and other legal rights guaranteed under Israeli law.

"In the past, workers seeking their rights paid Israeli and Arab lawyers 30 percent to 40 percent of their compensation payments," Barghouti said. "Arab mediators demanded a percentage. Palestinian trade unions were too interested in the national political issue to get involved. But we are concerned only with workers'

rights. We take a flat fee of NIS 40, and manage to resolve most disputes without going to court."

Histadrut sources suggested the arrest was political, and Histadrut parliament chairman Ran Cohen asked Police Minister Moshe Shahal to check whether the sole cause for Barghouti's arrest was his activity in a labor dispute in Jerusalem's Atarot industrial zone.

Barghouti, it was learned, was active among the Palestinian workers at a food plant owned by one of Jerusalem's most influential families. This family, which is said to be extremely well-connected, illegally pays less than the minimum wage and deprives workers of vacation and other basic rights.

"It is intolerable that, in a democratic state, police should intervene in a workers' struggle to improve labor conditions. The right of workers to organize is basic, and the police must not intervene in these disputes," Cohen wrote to Shahal.

Little progress reported in wage negotiations between Histadrut and employers

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE Coordination Bureau for the Economic Organizations, which represents the large private employers, agreed yesterday to formulate a separate agreement with the Histadrut for collecting the organization tax, to enable the Histadrut to continue functioning.

Histadrut Trade Union section head Amir Peretz met with the bureau's Doron Tamir for three hours yesterday in an effort to reach both an organization tax agreement and framework agreements.

Representatives of both sides are due to meet again tomorrow night. No progress was made on the wage agreement front, with both sides refusing to budge from their positions. The disagreement focuses on shortening the work week, updating the minimum wage, and changing the formula for the cost of living increment.

The Histadrut is demanding to shorten the work week from 45 to 43 hours within three years, while the employers are demanding this be carried out in six. The Histadrut wants the

minimum wage to be linked to 45% of the average income, while the employers want to cancel the linkage altogether, so the minimum wage is even lower than today.

The Histadrut is also demanding full compensation for inflation exceeding 10%, while the employers insist such compensation be given only for inflation of more than 14%.

The organization tax, also called "membership and handling fees," is to be deducted from the workers' wages by the employers, who will transfer it to the Histadrut. The fee will reach 0.9% for Histadrut members and 0.7% for non-Histadrut members for an income of up to one-and-a-half times the average wage. Workers earning more than that - about NIS 6,100 - will pay a fixed fee of NIS 55 for non-Histadrut members and NIS 45 for Histadrut members.

Electricity rates to increase by 3.8%

ELECTRICITY rates are to go up 3.8% after Energy Minister Moshe Shahal approved the hike yesterday.

According to a 1992 agreement, rates are updated every six months, or every time there is an increase of more than 3.5% in production costs. Prices were last updated in August.

Silvan Shalom's home burglarized

THE home of Likud MK Silvan Shalom and his wife, Judy Nim-Mozes Shalom, was burglarized during early yesterday morning. The two were sleeping at the time and told police they did not hear anything.

Thieves entered the Ramat Gan home through a window and stole NIS 2,000 in cash and documents, including Shalom's identity card.

Toddler dies after being hit by car

A three-and-a-half-year-old girl from Kfar Yassif near Acre died yesterday afternoon from injuries she sustained when she was hit by a van near her home. The driver of the van, who was backing up and did not see the girl, was arrested. (Itim)

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The institutes will be held in English.

INSTITUTE TOPICS:

January 22, 1995

1. Case Management for the Severely Mentally Disabled (9:00-12:00)
Prof. Phyllis Solomon and Prof. Roberta Sands, University of Pennsylvania.
2. Working with Dysfunctional Families in Health Care Settings (9:00-12:00)
Prof. Tobia Schwaber Kerson, Bryn Mawr College, Philadelphia.
3. Clinical Indicators, Quality Management and Improvement in Health Care Social Work (9:00-12:00)
Prof. Betsy Vourlekis, University of Maryland.
4. Recovery and Empowerment (9:00-14:00)
Dr. Patricia Deegan, Boston, Mass.
5. Consumers' Perspectives on their Mental Health (9:00-14:00)
Prof. Agnes Hatfield, University of Maryland.

January 27, 1995

6. Motivational Counseling with Chemically Dependent Individuals (9:00-12:00)
Prof. Robert Schilling and Prof. Nabilla El-Bassel, Columbia University.
7. Case Management for Older Persons (9:00-12:00)
Prof. David Chaffin, University of Kent, Prof. Peter Huxley, Manchester University.
8. Self-Help Groups in Mental Health (9:00-12:00)
Prof. Steven P. Segal, University of California, Berkeley.

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